Gloria turns to God for help on VP

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS

FEBRUARY 4, 2001 ★ 72 PAGES 7 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 58

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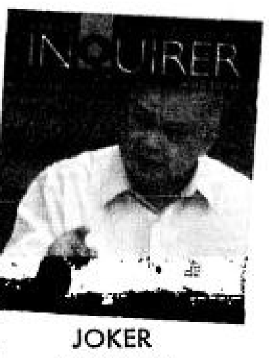
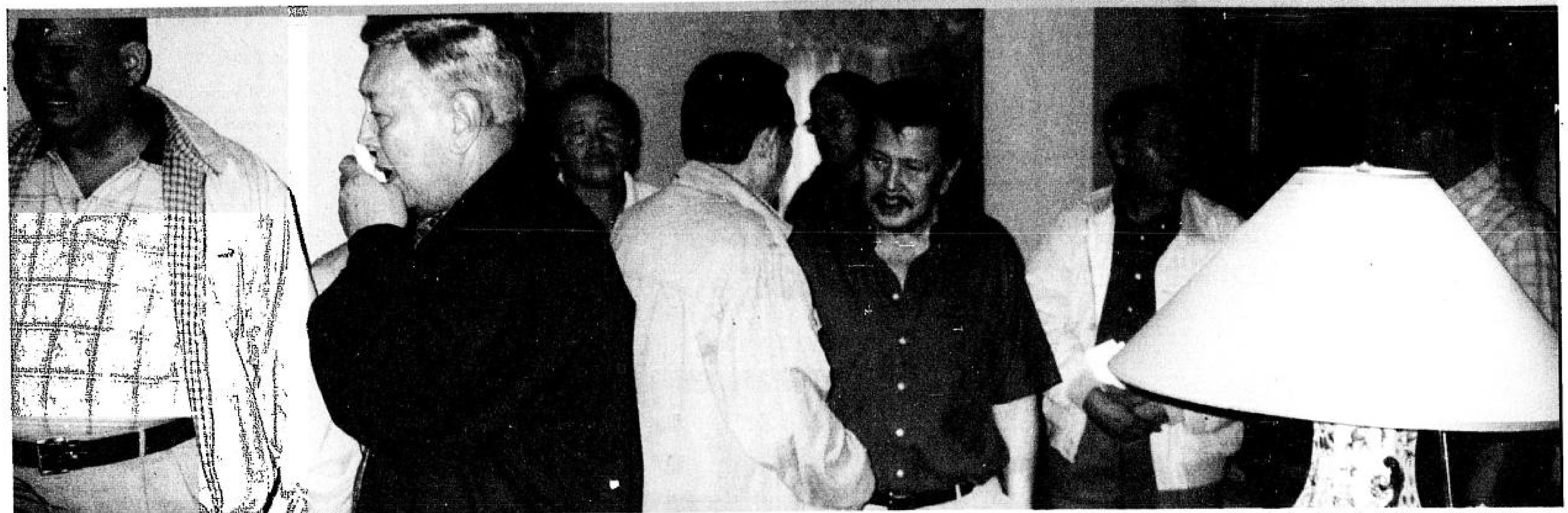


JOKER ARROYO



THE TROUBLE with goodbyes is etched in the faces of the faithful who keep Joseph Estrada company in the final hours of his presidency on Jan. 20. From left, are ex-Secretaries Antonio Cerilles of DENR, Vicente Rivera Jr. of DOTC and Mario Tiaoqui of energy; Mike Romero, ex-Labor Secretary Laguesma, ex-Executive Secretary Ed Angara and ex-Health Secretary Alberto Romualdez. THE ANGARA FILES

Erap's final hours told

At 1:20 p.m., Jan. 20, Estrada says, 'This is serious, Reyes has defected'

By Edgardo Angara

(First of three parts)

Editor's Note: This is the inside story of the "The Final Days of Joseph Ejercito Estrada," which is the title of the diary of former Executive Secretary Edgardo Angara.

Angara made the diaries exclusively available to the INQUIRER. His narrative contains a detailed account of events inside Malacañang during Estrada's last two days in office. It is an insider's account of how and why the negotiations for the resignation collapsed, leaving a constitutional ambiguity which is now the basis for a legal challenge, staged by Estrada supporters, against the legal legitimacy of the Macapagal government.

Angara's account is incorporated in a book the INQUIRER is publishing on the fall of the Estrada government. The book, whose principal author is Amando Doronila, contains a comprehensive assessment of the reasons behind the collapse of the government and inside stories of the events during the five days of People Power II.

IT WAS 9:30 in the morning, Jan. 20, 2001.

I was inside the Presidential Residence, tired and weary from a night of negotiations for Joseph Ejercito Estrada.

The residence looked cool and tranquil, as it had for many months that I had been its visitor. Very few people were moving around the first floor of the residence.

My Senior Deputy Executive Secretary, Ramon "Dondon" Bagatsing, was seated at one of the round tables. The head of the Presidential Management Staff, Ma. Celia "Macel" Fernandez, was busy at the computer.

Only 13 days ago, I took my oath as executive secretary on Jan. 6, 2001 to work with the 13th president of the Philippines. And the 13th day lasted two days.

When I made the difficult decision to accept the position of executive secretary, only two things were clear in my mind and heart. One, I would serve our country with all my energy, ensuring that government would always be there for our countrymen. But more importantly, I knew that this was a job that I would perform to the best of my capacities—till the end.

Certainly, it was this disposition

ERAP'S/ A16

Prosecutors warn DOJ on deal with Erap buddies

By Cathy C. Yamsuan, Philip C. Tubeza and Connie Fernandez

PRIVATE lawyers working on the criminal cases against ousted President Joseph Estrada are worried about the moral implications of his cronies receiving possible concessions from the government in exchange for their testimony against him.

This issue, according to Makati Rep. Joker Arroyo, has moved the lawyers to seek a meeting with Justice Secretary Hernando Perez. The meeting is set for tomorrow.

Arroyo said the private lawyers might ask Perez to reconsider the plan to use the cronies as government witnesses, but stressed that he was not speaking in their behalf.

In Mactan, President Macapagal-Arroyo said the justice secretary would decide whether the cronies would get immunity in exchange for their testimony against Estrada.

Former allies of Estrada who have signified intent to cooperate with government prosecutors include businessman Mark Jimenez, his former adviser on Latin American affairs, and Edward Serapio, his personal lawyer.

It was Serapio who allegedly set up the bogus Muslim Youth Foundation that, Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson had claimed, was used to launder proceeds from "jueteng."

A third crony, Charlie "Atong" Ang, was reported to have said through his legal counsel that he was still considering whether to tes-

PROSECUTORS/ A16

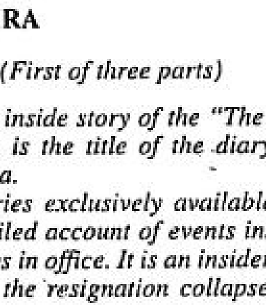
EDWIN BACASMAS

LIFE GOES ON

In the shadow of Mt. Mayon, Ben Acosta clears his ricefield in Rawis, Legazpi, Albay.

Romulo targets Lucio, Danding for revenues

By Raul C. Dancel



ROMULO: No friend of cronies.

NEWLY appointed Finance Secretary Alberto Romulo needs money—and plans to get it from the pockets of two of the wealthiest men in the land.

Facing an uphill task of shoring up the government's tax-take and trimming a budget deficit that could hit P200 billion this year, Romulo is setting his sights on Lucio Tan and Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr., two of ousted President Joseph Estrada's biggest campaign contributors.

In an interview, Romulo, President Macapagal-Arroyo's first choice for her Cabinet, described Estrada's 31-month presidency as "years eaten away by locusts," and conceded that two years may not be sufficient to undo the damage.

"It will take a minimum of two years to get back on our feet, but some are unkind. They say it will take five years or even more," said the finance chief, whom business reporters describe as a results-oriented politician who used to wear sandals to work in a former job as a member of the Monetary Board.

On his first day in office as finance secretary, Romulo, 63, a former senator as well as budget secretary under the Aquino administration, said he would pursue cases against Tan and his company, Fortune Tobacco Corp., for allegedly evading payment of taxes worth over P25.27 billion.

Last August, the Court of Appeals dismissed the government's case against Tan. In October, the government asked the Supreme Court to reverse the appellate

ROMULO/ A15

LETTERS FROM DADDY TO GLORIA

'Honor is inseparable from chastity'

"HE IS . . . much too tall for you—and I hope I am not mistaken—he seemed too lukewarm to you to be almost condescending," the concerned father wrote of the young man that his 17-year-old daughter had called her "crush."

"Of course," the father added kindly, "it could be shyness on his part, which I hope it was."

Despite the well-meant advice, the diminutive daughter eventually married her dreamboat, and decades later, went on to become President of the Philippines, following in the steps of the writer who signed his letter "Daddy."

Two handwritten letters of the late President Diosdado Macapagal to his then teenaged daughter, Gloria, provide an intimate glimpse of the thoughts and wisdom of a proud and protective father, loving husband, conservative Filipino male and romantic public servant.

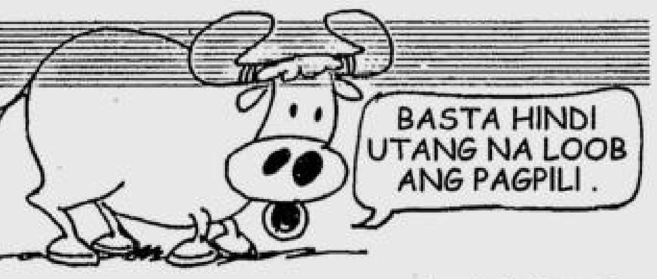
The letters are part of a collection of family correspondence and photographs kept at the Macaraeg-Macapagal House in Buru-un, Iligan City.

In the second letter, a 10-page masterpiece to his "precious daughter Gloria" when she turned 18 on April 5, 1965, Macapagal launched into a verbose treatise on the pursuit of "human happiness and meaning of life."

On Malacañang Palace stationery, he wrote that "honor is insepa-

HONOR/ A16

Second FRONT PAGE


BASTA HINDI UTANG NA LOOB ANG PAGPILI.

Gloria turns to God for help on VP

By Armand N. Nocum

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday said that she's having such a hard time choosing her vice president she's had to turn to God for help.

Asked during an official visit to Cebu on whether she had already chosen a vice president, Ms Macapagal replied that she continues to "pray for guidance and enlightenment" before making up her mind.

"I have been praying about it," said Ms Macapagal, who is known to be a devout Catholic and is said to read the Bible first thing in the morning. She also attends daily mass.

Ms Macapagal noted, however, that she is not compelled to name a vice president at all, citing historical precedents.

"If I want Congress to confirm it in this session, then I should do it this coming week, but legally, there is no deadline. And in fact, previous vice presidents who succeeded to the presidency did not appoint their respective vice presidents," she pointed out during a press briefing at the Mactan Benito Ebuen Air Base.

Ms Macapagal cited the case of Presidents Elpidio Quirino, Carlos Garcia and Sergio Osmeña, all of whom were vice presidents who succeeded to the presidency.

The session of the current Congress ends on Feb. 9.

But if she does make up her mind about it, she said she would announce her decision on or before Congress adjourns.

"I will make the proper decision at the appropriate time and let me tell you, I am praying very hard about it because the candidates are very good. They are all very qualified," she said.

As for her other appointees, the President denied criticisms that they had been made on the basis of "*utang na loob* (debt of gratitude)."

Interviewed on the ABS-CBN show "The Assignment" last Thursday, the President said she chose her people on the basis of track record and performance.

For one, she said, she had long observed the work ethic and seen the competence of her Cabinet members long before the second Edsa people's power revolution.

She said she and Sen. and Education Secretary Raul Roco had been politically at odds in the past.

As for Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon, she said she even had a heated exchange of words with him during a conference of the opposition group Kompil.

During the interview, the President revealed that she is comfortable working with the men and women in her Cabinet.

"I have five women in my Cabinet, and it's the biggest number of women in any Cabinet," she said.

MAMAMAYAN MUNA
HINDI MAMAYA NA!

GMA: Grateful but not beholden to the military

By Armand N. Nocum

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo declared yesterday many groups and individuals were behind the success of the Second People Power action and she was thus not particularly beholden to military leaders whose defection was deemed the final step in the downfall of her predecessor.

"I respect the military and certainly we should not belittle the heroic role they played at Edsa, but then you should not belittle the heroic role played by many others, those who started the movement, those who came out with the truth," she told reporters during an official visit in Cebu City.

President Macapagal made the statement in reaction to observations that the military sector had a high representation in her government.

She said that many other people contributed to the Second Edsa People Power Revolution, calling attention to House prosecutors in the impeachment trial and the millions of people who trooped to the streets "spontaneously" to call for the ouster of deposed President Estrada.

Military in Cabinet

Thus, Ms Macapagal said, her government was not compelled to fill her Cabinet with military men.

"I don't think their role is so pronounced. If you compare the number of military Cabinet members to that in previous administrations, it's not so large," she said. "In fact there are probably fewer military men in the present administration than in the previous one."

She said her government owed its existence to the efforts of all those worked for a new dispensation. "All of them, all of them together were indispensable part of what we're able to achieve now," she said.

Still, minutes after her arrival at the Mactan Air Base, the President immediately held a command conference attended by Armed Force Chief of Staff Gen. Angelo Reyes, acting Defense Secretary Eduardo Ermita and officers of the Visayan Command.

She thanked military officers and men in her speech at the conference for helping her preserve democracy both at Edsa and at the Fuente Osmeña in Cebu.

Gratitude for heroism

"As professional soldiers, I know that you will continue to stand united not only in securing our national sovereignty and territory, but also in defending our democracy and our institutions," she said.

In gratitude to their "heroic deeds," she said, she had directed the Presidential Management Staff to "institutionalize" the financial assistance given to families of soldiers killed or wounded in action.

In her directive families of soldiers killed in action will routinely receive P200,000. The families of soldiers who get seriously wounded will receive P50,000 and the families of those "less injured," P20,000.

Later, in a speech before Philippine Councilors League, Ms Macapagal also hailed the "important" role Cebuanos played in massing up in the streets to call for Estrada's ouster.

Gloria says she won't meddle in local politics

SAYING she has her hands full with the problems of the national government, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday said she has no desire to meddle in local politics even with the approaching elections in May.

Ms Macapagal was responding to a question as to whether she was endorsing any local candidate at a news briefing yesterday in Cebu City where she went on a day-long visit. It was her first official provincial visit since assuming the presidency two weeks ago.

"We have our political colleagues to take care of that. I have a very big problem of governance, I'd like to concentrate on governance," she said.

But the President said she may yet play an active role in local politics "at the proper time."

"But right now, with all these preliminary alignments and realignments, I don't think I should exhaust my energies there," she said, adding that she would rather concentrate on national issues affecting governance, health, socialized housing and others.

Armand N. Nocum

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Pimentel, Serge O to seek reelection under PDP-Laban

BY M. G.APALISOK
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr., founder of the Partidong Demokratikong Pilipino-Laban, said yesterday the party will field senatorial candidates in the May 14 elections.

And reelectionist Sen. Sergio Osmeña III of Cebu, Pimentel said, will be one of those candidates.

Pimentel was in Cebu to address the national assembly of the Philippine Councilors League at the Waterfront Hotel in Lahug here Friday night.

He did not say who the party's other candidates will be, but he said PDP-Laban will not be fielding a full senatorial slate. Twelve seats will be up for grabs in the Senate in the May polls.

Pimentel founded the Partidong Demokratikong Pilipino in the early 1980s. In 1982, the party merged with the Lakas ng Bayan (Laban) led by former Sen. Jovito Salonga and the late speaker Ramon Mitra.

The party challenged the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan (KBL) of the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos in the elections for the Interim Pambansa in 1984.

Sen. Serge Osmeña, in an interview over a local radio station last week, confirmed he is seeking reelection under the PDP-Laban banner.

Osmeña's cousin, former Cebu governor Lito Osmeña, is reportedly also interested in running for senator and could put a damper on Serge's plans.

Asked if PDP-Laban could slug it out with major established parties in an off-season election, Pimentel said the party is banking on the electronic media for help during the campaign period.

The Senate president, who was mobbed by delegates to the PCL assembly which was attended by some 5,000 delegates, said he was encouraged by the active involvement of the youth in the recent People Power 2 uprising which ousted President Joseph Estrada.

Pimentel also revealed he plans to conduct a nationwide campaign for the creation of a federal form of government in the days to come.

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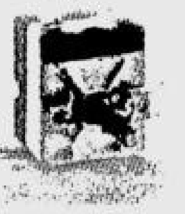

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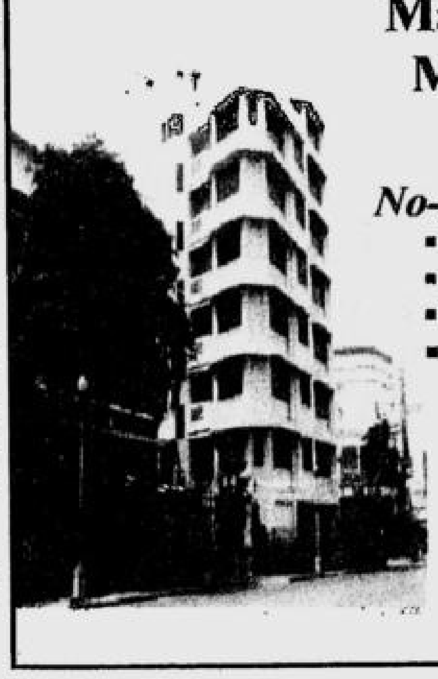

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Clouds hampering Mayon monitoring

LEGAZPI CITY—Thick clouds have hampered volcanologists monitoring the crater situation at Mayon Volcano the past two days.

Volcanologist Danny Bon of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said Mayon's crater has been obscured by a thick cloud cover, making it hard to ascertain the size of the lava dome.

Bon said a crater glow was observed for one hour before thick clouds covered Mayon.

Perfecto Peralta, another Phivolcs volcanologist, said the weather situation and the increase in the number of low-frequency volcanic quakes prompted the installation of more magma-tracking equipment on the upper slope of the volcano with the near-perfect cone.

Peralta said there was a slight decrease in sulfur dioxide emissions from the volcano, from 3,300 tons the other day to 2,600 tons yesterday, which could have been caused by "the partial swelling of the magma chamber due to possible growth in the size of the lava dome."

He added the observed crater glow was active and might break due to the pressure being exerted by the ascending magma column.

The scientist said that during breaks in the weather, a lava dome was observed in the middle of the 200-meter opening of Mayon's mouth, estimated to be 50 meters high and 90 meters wide.

A Phivolcs engineering team installed an electronic tilt meter near the Mayon Resthouse Observatory in Tabaco town, at the 4,000-foot elevation.

The meter tracks magma movement and will provide additional baseline data which could be compared to data spewed by existing tilt meters.

The alert status at Mayon remains at level 3 which means the volcano could erupt anytime soon.

Phivolcs reiterated its warning to residents in the six-kilometer permanent danger zone around the volcano to leave the area and those living in gullies to be extra alert.

Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

EDWIN BACASMAS

MAYON VOLCANO: Ready to erupt anytime soon.

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Public opinion.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
News that makes a difference

Agri now has low priority—Angara

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

FORMER Executive Secretary Edgardo J. Angara has bemoaned President Macapagal-Arroyo's failure to name a new agriculture secretary, saying this indicated the new administration was giving low priority to the agriculture sector.

ANGARA

Angara, who also served as agriculture secretary under deposed President Estrada, noted the sector had been the main engine of economic growth in the last two years.

Angara said the agriculture sector stood in danger of losing its momentum if the leadership void at the Department of Agriculture was not addressed soon.

The agriculture sector grew by 6.6 percent in 1999 and 3.1 percent last year. Angara said the growth rates were unprecedented in a sector whose historic growth rates had been pegged at an average of 1.3 percent.

"If we could sustain a growth rate of at least 3 percent for the next two years, the country can become self-sufficient in rice and fish and have 70 to 80 percent sufficiency for the rest of the commodities," Angara said.

"My biggest frustration in the government is not having finished the four-year growth plan for the sector which I believe, if developed, would immediately wipe out up to 30 percent the poverty incidence in the country, which is mainly prevalent in the provinces."

The DA is one of the few unfilled posts in the Macapagal Cabinet. Bulacan Rep. Lito Sarmiento, a first cousin of Rogelio Sarmiento of struggling livestock and feeds company Vitarich Corp., as well as Estrada's agriculture secretary, Domingo Panganiban, have been identified as candidates for the post.

A Cabinet source said President Macapagal-Arroyo was taking her time in choosing the agriculture secretary because she wanted to be sure that her appointee was well qualified for such a critical post.

Lim won't yield House seat to Joe de Venecia

By Yolanda Fuertes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

DAGUPAN CITY—Former Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr.'s bid to regain his old congressional seat is facing rough sailing as Pangasinan Rep. Benjamin Lim is standing pat on his plan to seek reelection in May.

DE VENECIA

Lim, who ran and won under the Lakas-NUCD in 1998, said he is waiting for the party to decide who the official candidate for the congressional seat would be but was hoping it would be him.

De Venecia, who is Lakas national chair, is said to be gunning for the House speakership, which he held during the Ramos administration.

Pangasinan's fourth district is composed of this city and the towns of Mangaldan, San Fabian, San Jacinto and Manaoag.

"We are invoking not only the equity of the incumbent but also the equity of the impeachment rule," Lim said.

Lim, a businessman and former general manager of Duty Free Philippines, said the equity of the impeachment rule refers to a candidate who had worked for the ouster of President Joseph Estrada.

Lim was one of the first lawmakers to sign the impeachment complaint against Estrada.

If he fails to get the Lakas endorsement, Lim said he might consider running under any party willing to adopt him. Otherwise, he said, he would run as an independent.

However, Lim described De Venecia as a "fair man" who would decide based on justice and party policies and not on personal interest.

De Venecia had earlier told reporters that he had asked Lim to run for Dagupan mayor instead.

Ocampo lectures on Luna, Hidalgo

MULTI-AWARDED historian Ambeth Ocampo focuses on the extraordinary achievements of 19th-century Filipino painters Juan Luna and Felix Resurreccion Hidalgo in a lecture at the National Museum on Saturday.

The historical canvas was a popular medium espoused by artists in 19th-century Europe. Madrid-based Luna and Hidalgo successfully used this medium to depict allegorically their country's plight.

The awards that Luna and Hidalgo reaped abroad propelled the Propaganda Movement and inspired their countrymen at home to take up arms against Spain.

The venue of the lecture is the Tambunting-Villonco Hall of the National Museum in the former finance department building at Rizal Park.

Registration starts at 9.30 a.m. and the lecture proper at 10.15 a.m. The lecture is jointly sponsored by the National Museum, the National Commission on Culture and the Arts and the Museum Foundation of the Philippines.

Harvard biotech fellowships

HARVARD University has announced the opening of post-doctoral fellowships in biotechnology and its role in the global economy and in developing countries.

The one-year fellowship program invites applicants from developing countries and offers stipends of $31,000 for the period of September 2001 to May 2001. While full stipends are limited, applications for partial- or no-stipend slots, or applicants with funding from other sources, will also be considered.

Applicants with backgrounds in, among others, molecular biology, genetics, botany, agronomy, ecology, agriculture, economists, law, political science, philosophy and international relations are preferred. Ability to operate in an interdisciplinary environment is required, and fellows are expected to jointly produce a book or other significant publications during the program.

Release of political prisoners pressed

By Andrea T. Echavez

HUMAN rights advocates yesterday criticized President Macapagal-Arroyo for allegedly delaying the release of political prisoners whom the new government had vowed to release the soonest possible time.

In the weekly Kapihan sa Cypress forum, Marie Hilao-Enriquez, secretary general of the human rights group Karapatan, blamed the delay in the release of the political detainees to the President's "misplaced" debt of'gratitude to the military.

"May we remind you Mrs. President: You owe to the people your presidency and not to the Johnnies-come-lately of the military!" a defiant Enriquez said.

Human rights lawyer Edre Olalia of the Public Interest Law Center, said that even before President Joseph Estrada's ouster, the Department of Justice had approved the release of an initial number of political prisoners. The new justice secretary though added 27 names to the list.

Enriquez said the Estrada administration, especially former police chief Panfilo Lacson, former defense secretary Orlando Mercado and the Armed Forces of the Philippines had tried hard to scuttle and sabotage the prisoner's release and "waged war instead of peace."

"Now, the release is again obviously being delayed and may even be deliberately sabotaged by Malacañang," she lamented.

Enriquez blamed the President's military 'advisers,' who she said are acting as though they are the ones running the government with their "Gestapo and 'cold war' mindset."

"It's like déjà vu. Estrada was ousted but his Gestapo agents and treacherous policies remained. The figurehead was replaced but not the tentacles of fascism," she said.

"We don't like to think that, like her predecessor, the President will hold the political prisoners hostage like what her 'military advisers' want, as a bargaining chip for dealing with her political rivals," Enriquez added.

She also "reminded" Ms Macapagal that political prisoners "are not mere pawns in the games of your generals."

"They are ordinary people with noble causes and families who agonize each day waiting for their release. Your Gestapo saboteurs are killing them slowly along with their families with each day that you delay their release," Enriquez said.

She said that in the spirit of goodwill and so-called "healing," President Macapagal should immediately order the release of the political prisoners instead of using them as "tool of coercion and vengeance."

"You may say that you want peace and 'healing,' but those words are as empty as our stomachs if your government remain hostage, and dictated on by the military and the likes of Executive Secretary Renato de Villa and AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Angelo Reyes," Enriquez said.

With the two officials "dictating" her, Ms Macapagal is starting to look like Estrada without the usual camouflage combat uniform, she said.

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Her Excellency
GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO
President of the Philippines
Malacañang Palace
J.P. Laurel, Manila

Dear Mrs. President:

As the civil society Complainants in the historic Impeachable Complaint against former President Joseph Ejercito Estrada we would like to give due recognition to SEN. TEOFISTO T. GUINGONA, JR. for the invaluable support, guidance and inspiration he provided to the impeachment initiative of the citizenry to rid our nation from a hopelessly inept, totally corrupt and morally bankrupt president.

Fearlessly, he repeatedly pointed out and denounced the impeachable offenses committed by the former President, which served to enlighten, educate and finally embolden the citizenry to file the impeachment Complaint in Congress. **He led the way by boldly asking for the former President's resignation on the Senate floor for having committed a string of impeachable offenses, standing his ground despite the lack of support from the people last April 3, 2000 and harassment by the former President's allies.** Undaunted, he once again stood up to expose and denounce on the Senate floor the involvement of the former President in jueteng payola, the mother of impeachable offenses, that Ilocos Sur Gov. Chavit Singson soon confirmed in a Press Conference.

SEN. TEOFISTO T. GUINGONA, JR. has a consistent track record of personal integrity and unwavering commitment to combat graft and corruption in government as COA Chairman, Executive Secretary, Secretary of Justice and Senator of the Republic.

In view of this, we would like to endorse him for the position of Vice-President in order to restore the people's trust and high regard for public office. Being a Mindanaoan, he would be a special asset in addressing the underdevelopment, poverty and endless strife in the "land of promise."

The appointment of statesman like SEN. TEOFISTO T. GUINGONA, JR. as Vice President would be consistent with your early appointments of men and women of sterling qualifications.

Sincerely yours,

IMPEACHMENT COMPLAINANTS

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Konsensyang Pilipino

Evelyn L. Kilayko
EVELYN KILAYKO
Concerned Women of the Phils.

Emilita Lim Cruz
EMILITA LIM CRUZ
Konsensyang Pilipino

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Victims of Mindanao War

DANTE JIMENEZ
Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption

Karen N Tañada
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Vol. 16 No. 58
ISSN 0116-2642

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The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati • P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office, 1263 Makati City, Philippines • Our new telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments; Editorial Fax 897-4793, 897-4794; Advertising 897-4807; Circulation 527-33-42, 527-33-46, 528-01-83, 528-01-86 and 528-02-13, Fax: 528-02-34.

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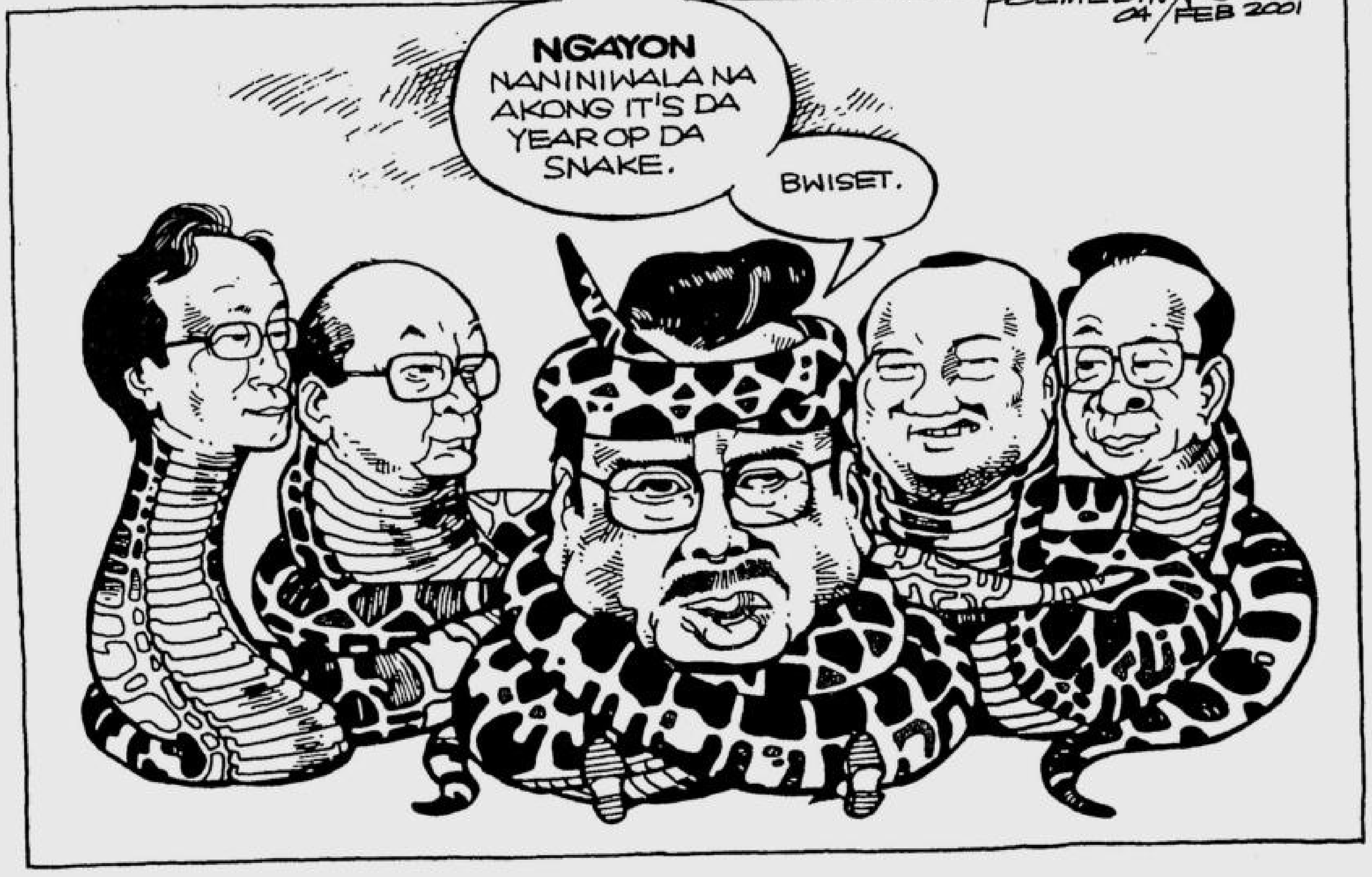
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BWISET.

A stinking mess

EDITORIALS

IT IS a peculiarity of Philippine governance that a lot of the new President's public pronouncements have revolved around garbage. Even when she was being sworn in as the country's 14th President, garbage had been piling in the metropolis. Of course, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has inherited other messes like corruption and the empty public coffers. But she is forced to deal with the more immediate mess because it stinks to high heavens.

The new chair of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, Benjamin Abalos, has promised to clear the streets totally of garbage in 10 days. We wish him well. But the fulfillment of his promise relies heavily on finding a new site to dump Metro Manila's garbage. The prospect for that is not bright.

First, the previous administration failed in its search for other sites. Where to dump Metro Manila's garbage was a thorny issue for that administration. That it failed to make a dent on the problem is a testament to its incompetence. Certainly the new administration cannot afford to make the same mistake.

Second, no town or municipality in its right mind will accept Metro Manila's garbage despite the sweeteners. To accept any incentive by the MMDA would be a kiss—or stink—of death.

Third, the size of Metro Manila's garbage—6,000 tons produced every day—is simply astounding. If the MMDA were to insist on looking for sites to dump garbage, the search might extend to Sabah and Taiwan.

Abalos knows his administration will sink or swim according to how well it meets the challenge. However, it appears that the problem has made him unduly reticent and self-restrained. For instance, he has refused to name the new site of the dump, merely saying that he has already made the choice. It is as if he is about to spring a delightful surprise on the populace, specifically the community that will host the smelly dump.

Abalos' tack does not bode well for government transparency, the lack of which doomed the last administration that had even appointed a garbage czar, who however preferred meddling in the kidnapping situation in Mindanao so that the garbage problem, left unattended, expanded to crisis proportions. The last-minute search for dumps in the former administration only galvanized local opposition—in this case, in Semirara which had been tapped to host Metro Manila's garbage—and merely underscored the political sensitivity of the garbage crisis.

Therefore, Abalos does not have a choice but to be transparent. After all, the search for dumps should follow the rules of fair play and correct decision-making, like the holding of public consultations with the communities that will be affected. Definitely it is not like something that the heartless neighbor does with his garbage: throwing it over the fence.

Good examples

IT'S about time, too, that the new administration learned from—and provided incentives—to community initiatives to check garbage. If ever it gets off the ground, the much-touted waste management program of government has really been prefigured in small barangays whose example of proper garbage management can be replicated nationwide if only government were a little less corrupt, a little more competent.

Model barangays and private villages in Metro Manila have put up their own program, segregating waste right at the household, composting the biodegradable and recycling the non-biodegradable. In the provinces, whole cities and municipalities have put up their own unique programs. Naga City, for example, has tied up with a foreign company to export fertilizer from the city's waste.

Considering the army of examples, it's quite a mystery that the MMDA and Metro Manila's local governments have not made even the smallest progress on the garbage problem. Paltry vision and lack of political will have obviously buried the metropolis under megatons of filth.

Turning the tables

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

NOW that the Estrada administration is gone, all bets are off. The protection it gave its followers and cronies is no longer valid, like a blank check grown stale. It's time now for many a long-deferred accounting, and judgment day is near.

The tax evasion case against Lucio Tan was filed under the Ramos administration but withdrawn when President Estrada assumed office. Justice Secretary Serafin Cuevas filed a motion for reconsideration, from which the president pointedly distanced himself. Cuevas was unceremoniously fired later. Nothing more was heard about the case until Erap bit the dust at Edsa.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez has revived interest in the case and many people are hoping it is still viable. The case involves a tax delinquency of as much as P25.27 billion. This could be spent for many public projects neglected by Estrada during his profligate administration.

Conviction of Tan would also be condign punishment for the privileges and immunities he abused during his preferred status as one of President Estrada's most powerful cronies. He is said to have enjoyed many financial benefits as the éminence grise of the former president.

There's another taipan who could only be whispered as the top smuggler in the country because he was also close to the Palace. Actually, this man's reputation was an open secret, but no one dared to challenge him as long as Estrada was in power. Now that we have a new President, one more powerful crony can be investigated without Erap's restraining influence or command.

Former SEC Chair Perfecto Yasay testified at the impeachment trial that President Estrada ordered him to clear Dante Tan, still another presidential pal, in the investigation of the BW stock manipulation. The Department of Justice filed criminal charges against Tan, but it is doubtful if Erap would not have interfered again, this time with the courts. It will be different now with the Macapagal administration prosecuting the case.

The Supreme Court initially sustained Mark Jimenez when he demanded to be informed of the criminal cases against him in the US request for his extradition. The Court reversed itself later in the wake of the public outcry, but the old Department of Justice still managed to keep his surrender on indefinite hold. It may still be delayed now because he has offered, obviously to save his own skin, to testify against his former but now forsaken friend.

Last year, the Estrada administration awarded a P700-million irrigation contract to A.M. Oreta & Co., of which Sen. Tessie Aquino-Oreta's husband was the president. I wrote in this column that, unless she and Mr. Oreta had absolute separation of property, she was violating the Constitution. The pertinent provision was Art. VI, Sec. 14, prohibiting a member of Congress from being financially interested, directly or indirectly, in any contract with the government.

Former COA Commissioner Bartolome C. Fernandez Jr. was quick to add that, as conjugal partner of her husband, the senator had also violated Sec. 3(h) of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act. Lawyer Ramon A. Gonzales has a pending petition with the Supreme Court questioning her prohibited financial interest in the contract. Lawyer Abelardo M. Topacio sent me a copy of the complaint he filed with the Ombudsman on the same grounds, and Antonio C. Abaya's TAPATT also joined the hue and cry. In a letter dated May 10, 2000, Ombudsman Aniano Desierto assured me that his office was studying the matter, but I have not heard from him since then.

Incidentally, Senator Oreta was one of the Craven Eleven who voted to suppress the second envelope that supposedly contained more evidence of President Estrada's avarice. Her claim to fame (or infamy) is her dance of joy after they trounced the prosecution. Earlier, until she was widely criticized for it, she always accompanied Erap during his official trips abroad when she should have been attending to her duties in the Senate.

After Estrada's election in 1998, it was generally assumed that the criminal case against Panfilo Lacson and his henchmen for the alleged massacre of the Kuratong Baleleng gang members would be dismissed. And so it was. Erap was in power then but he is not anymore. Secretary Perez is reported to be interested in the reexamination of the case with a view to its possible refiling.

Mike Velarde was one of the most vociferous supporters of the past administration. His critics noted that the contributions of the El Shaddai flock were not subject to accounting or taxation and that Velarde himself had amassed a considerable fortune. Nobody thought to investigate him as long as he was Erap's spiritual adviser. He doesn't have a prayer under the new administration, for which he will now probably mouth his hosannas.

Now that Estrada has been kicked out, some senators who voted for him at the impeachment trial can no longer be sure that their huge indebtedness to the government will not be called. One reportedly owes P35 million, another a whopping P800 million. With the present administration in desperate need of funds to repair Erap's unbelievable plunder, these senators should be receiving demand letters any day now.

And what about George Go and Jaime Dichavez, who signed antedated documents disguising ownership of the Jose Velarde bank account? And how about Estelito Mendoza, who claimed he did not know what the two were plotting in his very own law office? There is no inhibition now against the investigation of these matters, and no expected Erap intervention either to once again suppress the truth. Atong Ang, one of the sacred cows before, now wants to tattle on his former benefactor so that he himself may escape roasting.

Many more cases that could not have prospered during the Estrada administration have better prospects now under the new dispensation. President Macapagal does not owe any *utang na loob* to Erap's cronies, and in any case she has pledged to let justice take its course. Expect more Erap satraps to fall with their now toothless protector, who himself needs all the protection he can get. The tables have been turned.

God's way

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

"DISTANCIA Amigo" is a very good reminder for drivers to keep distance for safe driving. It is also a very good reminder for us to learn in life. We need to distance ourselves, withdraw from the crowd from time to time. Even Jesus took a boat and began teaching from the boat when he was pressed by the crowd. (Lk. 5, 1-11) We need to see things "from a distance" to get a better view, a clearer mind, a bolder heart. It is not a cowardly act to get away. In fact, sometimes, the best way, the only way to survive is to get away. Sometimes, it is precisely when we get away that we *get a way*, and find a way.

* * *

There are some people who are always on the go, on the fast lane of life. They hardly have the time to slow down or stop. They are always in a hurry, always on the hi-way. Know why they call it a hi-way? That's because it's the place where people say or wave "Hi!" and get going. Fast things happen on life's hi-ways, but substantial things happen on life's road and byways.

* * *

Edsa is a hi-way, in fact a very busy hi-way. But when Edsa came to a stop and was filled with people, it became a real way. It led us to somewhere, because we stopped. By the way, Epifanio de los Santos means the revelation/manifestation of the saints. The unnamed crowd at Edsa are the saints of Edsa, and not just those who went up the stage, and who in the meantime have been named to juicy positions. Hey, you guys, don't forget to serve the people who brought you where you are now. Remember, the people are not just incidental by-the-ways.

* * *

IT seems to me that the lucky beneficiaries of Edsa II did not "put out into deep water" in their search for new appointees. A lot of those appointed were found in shallow and familiar shores. I'm afraid that political debt and patronage are reasons not deep enough for choosing people who will serve in government. Shallow people found in shallow waters, chosen for shallow reasons, will bring out shallow results. *Shalo mo ba?*

* * *

There were many who were at Edsa for personal (not political) and patriotic (not "positional") reasons. Many of them, like Victor Jongko who died while praying with his Legion of Mary Group, or *Aling* Mameng who gave fiery speeches, or Fr. Robert Reyes and his group, or the students, the labor and other cause-oriented groups are not even mentioned now, but they will never be forgotten. *Shalodo kami sa inyo!*

* * *

"At your command, I will lower the nets" is a beautiful reminder from Peter that we must be obedient and trusting in the Lord. After we have done our very best, to God we must leave the rest, and be at peace about it. Yes, a song by Moen says, "God will find a way when it seems there is no way…and if there is no way, He will *make a way* for you." People who follow the way of righteousness must not lose heart. There will be a way, in His own time, according to His own way. Yes, God answers all prayers. According to a text message I received, when God says "Yes," He gives you what you are asking for; when God says "No," He has something better than what you are asking for; when God says "Wait," He is going to give you the best, but in His own time." *Gets mo?*

* * *

One other thing we learn from Peter is his capacity and willingness to work with others. He signaled to his partners in the other boat to come and help them. He had the humility to realize and accept that he needed the help of others. Yes, we need others, we need all the help we can get in our work of building a nation and in our commitment to spread the Kingdom of God. *Huwag kang mag-sholo!*

* * *

We have to give it to Peter when he knelt before Jesus and said, "Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man." For me, that says it all. Unless and until we can say this in all sincerity, we still have not learned who we are before God. God has a hard time dealing with people who think (and really believe!) that they are good, righteous people who think they merit or deserve God's love. None of us deserve God's love. Neither can we oblige God to love us just because we "follow the rules." A humble and a contrite heart is where we really find and embrace our God. I am a sinful man and I have been forgiven much, and I find refuge in God's compassionate heart. That's where I hang out. See you there sometime.

* * *

If there will be elections this May, I hope we really catch men and women who work for the good of the nation. Let us make sure our nets are strong, and not full of holes. Let us also cast our nets into the deep waters, and pray much to the Lord of the harvest to give us a good catch, this time.

* * *

Have you brought anybody closer to God? Have you shared your faith with other people? Have people become better because of you. We are all missionaries. Let us not forget that we all have a mission in this life. Our mission is not just to become rich and famous. Our mission is to do something good and worthwhile for others while we are still alive and to spread the Good News of God's love far and wide. Let us all tread God's way. There's no other way but God's way.

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, help me to follow you more closely, love you more dearly and see you more clearly as I go on life's ways and byways. Amen.

Windfall of incumbency

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

CHIEF Justice Hilario Davide Jr. topped President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in trust rating in Pulse Asia's Metro Manila survey conducted on Jan. 26, six days after she replaced Joseph Estrada as president. Davide's net rating was 48 percent, compared with Ms Macapagal's 14 percent. Davide has had the highest net trust rating among top Philippine officials since the beginning of the impeachment trial of Estrada on Dec. 7, 2000.

The important development to consider, however, is that Ms Macapagal walked into the positive column from her negative 44 percent net trust rating in Pulse Asia's survey of Jan. 20. This 58 percentage-point gain prompted Prof. Felipe Miranda, executive director of Pulse Asia, to remark, "This is the most impressive in the history of socio-political surveys (during) the past 16 years." On the other hand, the deposed president's net trust rating plunged to negative 20 percent on Jan. 26, from negative 16 percent on Jan. 20. Estrada's last net rating was the lowest in his presidency.

The above figures are linked. The high rating of Davide and spectacular rating gains of President Macapagal require explanation. Davide's rating sends the message that the Metro Manila people approve of his decision to swear in Ms Macapagal. The finding is a popular vote of confidence in the Supreme Court which took a bold step in legitimizing the new government against the background of legal challenge to the Court's decision. The Chief Justice and the Court should derive comfort from this public manifestation of confidence.

The second message is. that among the key political institutions of the country, the Supreme Court now enjoys the highest confidence among the people. No doubt, the personal integrity of Davide and his handling of the impeachment trial have enhanced faith in the Court, even though the trial had been hijacked by Estrada's allies in the Senate by forcing a vote on the opening of the second envelope containing evidence of Estrada's unexplained wealth.

I would attribute Ms Macapagal's gain in trust rating to what I might call the "windfall of incumbency," a phenomenon that takes place immediately following a change in government. Some would call it euphoria.

Before the fall of Estrada, there was widespread demoralization in business, civil society, the international community and even the government itself. The atmosphere was gloomy. After the fall of his administration, the gloom dissipated. And even though it requires hard work and expectations are not high for a quick economic recovery, depressed sectors are willing to give the new administration a chance to turn the corner and introduce political reforms.

The gains of Ms Macapagal are, of course, at the expense of Estrada. These illustrate the zero-sum nature of political change in the Philippines, where winners, either in an election or in a people-power upheaval, receive a bandwagon effect, alternatively called turncoatism. In the short term, turncoatism isn't entirely a bad thing because it provides a new leader a broad mandate and a euphoric atmosphere in which to launch fresh initiatives.

Ms Macapagal appears to be taking advantage of this windfall and momentum. She is aware of her previous low trust rating in the polls, of the legal challenges to the legal legitimacy of her administration raised by Estrada supporters, the need to set a new tone to governance, and the urgency of reversing the slide of the economy to recession. This context should give us the framework to understand what she is doing in her first 100 days.

Some trends have emerged. The first is that she is giving Mindanao more importance in central decision-making than her predecessors. The appointment of a Muslim, Rep. Simeon Datumanong, as secretary of public works is a signal that Mindanao will not stay out of her radar screen. This is the first time since Marcos' democratic years that a Muslim is represented in the Cabinet.

When Ms Macapagal indicated that the next vice president should come from the South, it means that she is restoring the wise balance before the martial law regime changed the rules of the game. Thus when the president came from Luzon, the vice president came from the South (either from the Visayas and/or Mindanao) to avoid the perception that Luzon and "Imperial Manila" were getting most of the power and resources of the country.

Ms Macapagal has also created the climate for the resumption of negotiations with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

She has lost no time in using the presidency as a bully pulpit to broaden her mandate. Last week, she increased the number of her public appearances and public speaking engagements. She has talked to the Philippine National Police at its anniversary and she has addressed the business meeting sponsored by the Makati Business Club, outlining her priorities. The dignity of the language of the presidential speeches and press conference has returned, and presidential pronouncements have more substance than in the past. Within a week, the new administration has succeeded in being taken seriously. She has also gone to visit the urban poor in a bid to switch their loyalty from their discredited champion who did very little for them.

The President waffled on the issue of whether to allow Estrada to go on exile while the criminal cases against him are being pressed. While she is not averse to allowing Estrada to be banished, Justice Secretary Nani Perez has insisted that Estrada should be brought to trial. If she allows Estrada to go, she will lose a large constituency and allies who have demanded that Estrada be brought to justice. If the Department of Justice slows its momentum, Ms Macapagal will lose credibility with her civil society allies who are demanding that Estrada should be jailed as a precondition to national reconciliation.

Whale-watching, not whale shows

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

THIS is getting repetitive, but congratulations to Pat Sto. Tomas for being named labor secretary. They couldn't have chosen a better woman for the job! Pat belongs to the batch of bright, assertive and certainly very capable women who joined the DOLE while it was headed by Sen. Blas Ople, a batch that includes former Labor Secretary (under Fidel Ramos) Nieves Confesor. The batch also counts among its "junior" members former HUDCC Chair Lenny de Jesus, of "Dragon Lady" fame, as well as Lucy Lazo, who women's groups hope will be named to head the Tesda soon. As Civil Service Commissioner, Pat pioneered the establishment of flexi-time policies for CSC employees, as well as the establishment of a work-site day care center. With Confesor, she also advocated the creation of anti-sexual harassment policies within the bureaucracy. Which is why Pat's appointment cannot but augur well for all working women.

Kudos, too to Rep. Hernani Braganza, who is, depending on which side of the family we trace our lineage, either my uncle or my cousin, but certainly not my nephew, which he insists he is. It's quite unfair that stories about his appointment as agrarian reform secretary refer to him solely as "FVR's nephew," because he is so much more than his relatives. His mother may be a cousin of the former President, but Nani earned his spurs in public life early on, as a student activist and then as a representative and "Spice Boy." He also brings much-needed invigorating young blood to the Cabinet, and I hope he brings a fresh, go-getting attitude toward the important work of agrarian reform.

Let me add my voice here, too in support of Dr. Jaime Galvez Tan for the new secretary of health. An "old hand" at DOH, Jimmy should ably continue the good work set by his predecessor, Dr. Alberto Romualdez, while bringing his own brand of charisma and management skills to this important agency. Though it will mean his leaving as president and CEO of FriendlyCare, where I sit on the board, I'm sure I speak for the others on the board when I say that once he gets appointed, we will let him go with heavy hearts but high hopes for the country.

* * *

HERE'S the rest of Lory Tan's position paper on the Subic Bay Marine Exploratorium (SBME) whose "grand" opening has been set for this summer, but around which environmental groups have organized protests.

Among the points refuted by Tan, who is a book publisher aside from being a devoted marine conservationist, is the claim being made by the SBME that the facility will serve to "save" marine mammal species as well as their habitats.

On the contrary, says Tan, a marine exploratorium will in fact endanger the species, alienating the captive animals from their "natural" ways. "The dolphins and whales at the SBME have been made to completely forget their natural feeding and foraging patterns," he says. "Since food is used as a primary conditioning tool by SBME trainers, the dolphins and whales there are made to realize that their only source of food at Subic are their trainers. Stereotyped behaviors, such as pacing and self-mutilation, and even abnormal aggression toward conspecies and humans may develop, as is the case with many captive predators who are denied the opportunity to forage. The captive marine mammals at the SBME have been 'trained' to lose the ability to hunt. They are completely dependent on their human keepers. They have been deliberately conditioned to forget how to survive in the wild." "Viewing captive dolphins and whales at the SBME gives people a false picture of the animals' natural life, notes Tan. "Worse yet, it desensitizes Filipinos to the psychological manipulation that the SBME has subjected its captive animals to.

"At the SBME, the needs of the visiting public come before the needs of the animals. The bottlenose dolphins and false killer whales that will be used there, are not endangered species. There is absolutely no justification for conservation or captive breeding. These species have been used in many dolphinaria throughout the world. Much research has already been done on these two species. There is absolutely no justification for further research. The SBME is a business. It cannot be regarded as a genuine conservation program."

* * *

AS A business, adds Tan, "dolphinaria are a sunset industry. Many countries throughout the world have made it illegal to establish new facilities of this sort. Each year, more and more such facilities are closing down. SBME features outdated technology that the First World no longer wants."

Tan says that while facilities for the training and exhibition of marine mammals are on the wane, "in contrast, whale watching is a growth industry. The existing Philippine policy on marine mammals encourages the establishment of community-based whale watching programs, and discourages captive dolphin shows."

The Exploratorium, he says, "runs directly against current Philippine policy. It has been forced down the throats of supervisory agencies, such as BFAR, by decisions made at the highest levels of the previous government. These decisions were made by Angara of DA, Cerilles of DENR and Chair Payumo of Subic Bay. There may be sufficient basis for a graft case."

Tan likewise debunks claims made that the SBME will help conserve the population of these marine mammals. "Rather than enhancing wild populations, SBME's stated objective of engaging in captive breeding of two relatively common species, is all talk. No significant success has been achieved. And, if breeding actually takes place, it will only create a surplus of common animals who will never be released into the wild.

"Clearly, it is wrong to bring wild marine mammals into captivity at Subic Bay, for the purpose of commercial public display. The SBME must be prevented from operating its whale and dolphin show."

Open the envelope

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

AND let our nation's development begin. By a happy coincidence, "to develop" means literally "to free from that which envelops." It is ironic that the contents of the envelope whose suppression triggered People Power II remain unknown to the public until now. Its opening should have been the first business of the new leadership, a symbol of its resolve to be different by being transparent.

Open that second envelope now, and let the nation know the whole truth about the behavior of its highest public officials. Our development can only begin when we have freed ourselves from that which keeps us from seeing the way we actually think and act in our daily lives.

What are we afraid of? Are we afraid that our outrage would turn out to be disproportional to the envelope's actual contents? But it is bound to be so if we think this is just literally about an envelope.

That envelope is the best metaphor for everything we have refused to see about ourselves, not the least of which is our tendency to disregard the law by a resort to *palusot*, or if this fails, by a personal request for accommodation. The companion of this bad habit is the propensity to invoke rank and status to avoid the application of regulations. How else do we explain how Joseph Estrada could hide billions of pesos in various banks under assumed names?

We routinely set aside our concept of what is right because we tend to be awed by authority and celebrity or because someone makes it easy and profitable for us to do so. We excuse our complicity and neutralize our guilt by telling ourselves that everyone does it anyway. We use laws and formal requirements as resources for extorting bribes and kickbacks, and we hire the best lawyers to hide such practices.

People Power II is that historic moment in our lives when we realized we could not maintain our self-esteem as a nation if we continued to live like this. Our awakening came when the 11 senators who conspired to protect a corrupt President used the power of their numbers to suppress the envelope that contained the truth about the President's Jose Velarde account. While a vote to divide the house is a prerogative they could invoke under the rules, in choosing to exercise it when they did, the pro-Estrada senators fatally disregarded the question of the legitimate use of power.

Legitimacy is not something one finds in the letter of the law; it resides in the context of the law's application. Sen. Francisco Tatad's motion to vote on the issue of the opening of the envelope pre-empted the presiding officer, Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., whose participation was the single factor that gave credibility to the trial. In this context, Tatad's motion stood out as a brazen act that synthesized for every Filipino the illegitimate use of formal power.

People Power II is a repudiation of this brazenness and everything else it sought to preserve: the rapacious presidency of Joseph Estrada, *trapo* politics, the use of public office for personal enrichment, the collusion of institutions in corrupt practices and the general indifference of a public that learned to live in a culture of corruption.

Though it was not among its chief objectives, People Power II made it possible for Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to become President. It did not choose Ms Macapagal; it gave her permission to govern as a transition President. We draw this important distinction because President Macapagal is acting as if she were a winner in an election. Instead of appointing individuals who could best personify the people's yearning for a decent and professional administration, she has been distributing Cabinet positions to politicians belonging to her coalition as if these were the spoils of war.

But more important, the new President does not appreciate the impulse that propelled People Power II. That it was born of disgust with a shameless presidency that felt no accountability after it was elected by an overwhelming plurality. That it was driven by a powerful urge for self-examination and renewal as a nation.

In her first formal televised message as President, Ms Macapagal addressed those who might be plotting to destabilize her administration and sternly told them that she would crush them. She said she would defend the government, but she did not say where she was headed as a government.

On the single issue that would have defined how passionately she felt about the message of People Power II—namely, what to do with the deposed president—President Macapagal was at best equivocal. She said that cases would be filed, but in the next breath she opened the door to voluntary exile. Private lawyers and other citizens have taken it upon themselves to gather all the evidence they can get so that the case left hanging in the Senate can be given a just and proper closure.

Nearly the whole nation is demanding to see the former president behind bars, and his properties immediately frozen if not seized. But President Macapagal does not seem to think this should preoccupy her presidency. Clearly, her concern is to quickly normalize her rule by getting her political enemies to recognize her presidency.

She is, however, addressing the wrong people. Her biggest problem is to earn the trust of the young warriors of People Power II whose single-mindedness made her President. Perhaps a good start is to request the Senate to immediately free the contents of that accursed envelope.

* * *

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Estrada wasn't lying at Club Filipino

OUTLOOK

Rigoberto Tiglao

WELL, at least technically. We disagree with commentators that the ex-actor was just putting up his final pathetic performance at Club Filipino Wednesday. An observation in this column Friday that he's probably making a claim to the presidency just to evade criminal charges against him is wrong. In his mind, Estrada still believes he is president.

In the past two months, it has not dawned on him that "Juetengate" and the impeachment trial had created an unstoppable groundswell of outrage against his administration. As a friend loyal to the former president related it, Estrada on that fateful day of Jan. 19, when the military withdrew its support from his administration, kept asking the people who were with him: "What have I done wrong? What have I done wrong?"

Downright preposterous? Or really unsurprising for a president, who conventional wisdom says, has been our most stupid head of state?

We don't think so. Estrada was ensnared—probably the most gullible victim ever—in the trap laid for all heads of states, especially Philippine presidents. A term for that, which is not really so precise, is cordon sanitaire. A longer description: a president's power circle insulating him from reality. More to the point, Estrada lived since October in his own fantasy world, maintained by his own inner circle of friends and advisers.

The idea occurred to me recently when I bumped into an official in Estrada's inner circle. He was surprised when I told him that I've been writing a regular column in this paper since September. I haven't read the INQUIRER for a year, he said, and there's not a single copy of the paper in Malacañang. When Estrada was outside Malacañang, his close-in aides routinely swept the room clean for any misplaced copy of the INQUIRER.

It's not hard to see why Estrada in the past two months still thought he had the mandate to rule, how his inner circle fed him with the illusion that he did.

Former Philippine National Police Director General Panfilo Lacson, Estrada's eyes and ears, was telling him that his troubles were all due to a plot by two old generals, Fidel Ramos and Jose Almonte. Horacio Morales, his expert on civil society and mass movements, was probably telling him that his administration's reforms had strengthened his base of support among the poor.

His Executive Secretary Ronaldo Zamora, Political Adviser Lito Banayo and, according to coffee shop talk, Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile were telling him that he had the impeachment trial in the bag with 11 senators certain to vote for his acquittal. His Defense Secretary Orlando Mercado and even his top military spook Lt. Gen. Jose Calimlim were probably telling him that his program to provide houses for policemen and soldiers assured him the undying support of the military.

Of course, infamous now was Ernesto Maceda's comment, which he probably repeated again and again to Estrada as his brilliant insight to deserve his fee as the political firefighter: "The demonstrators at Edsa will get tired in a few days, the crowds will fizzle out, and those noisy big businessmen will crawl, begging, to Malacañang."

That comment was rivaled as an unintended forecast only by Enrile's arrogant challenge, after that Jan. 16 vote at the impeachment trial: "*Magrebolusyon kayo kung kaya ninyo* (Stage a revolt if you can)."

Worse for Estrada, it wasn't just his inner circle that was telling him that things were all right. Why, academics were even saying so. Pollsters Pulse Asia and the Social Weather Stations were all over the papers reporting that he was still popular, and continued to have the support of the masses. The popularity of the pretender to the throne, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, they said, was even plummeting.

And then in his administration's final days, enter his purported white knight Edgardo Angara, in what Estrada probably thought as a master stroke. Indeed, even some of Estrada's most virulent critics were gushing that it was a "bloodless coup" and "a new beginning."

A Philippine president becoming gradually insulated from reality isn't really unprecedented. Ferdinand Marcos' cell was his room made into a hospital suite in the years before Edsa I. The coup attempts against her administration forced Corazon Aquino into her own cell, where she couldn't even see that the country would soon have no electricity. Fidel Ramos' background in military intelligence made him extra-careful about being ensnared by a cordon sanitaire. He employed fifth-column type of cells to find out what was really happening. But in the end he also fell into that trap. His inner circle convinced him that "cha-cha"—amending the Constitution to extend his term—was, to use his favorite term, "doable." Then a bit like Estrada, Ramos lost contact with reality in 1998, believing that his prestige would carry to victory his anointed for the presidency, Speaker Jose de Venecia. In the final analysis, it was Ramos and his inner circle's world that gave us Estrada.

President Macapagal certainly isn't invulnerable. She can fall into the same trap that ensnared all her predecessors.

* * *

We found a letter purportedly written by PR man Bubby Dacer, who is still missing to this day, quite revealing. The letter addressed to retired Gen. Jose Almonte was published in the new magazine Newsbreak, which says it obtained the letter from Almonte himself. The letter was dated Oct. 20, 2000, about a month before he was abducted on Nov. 24. If the letter isn't a lead investigators should follow up, I don't know what can be. Completely unedited, the letter reads:

Dear sir,

I write instead of calling you to avoid being recorded by General Lacson and President Estrada. I have been repeatedly warned by friends in the Police, Military, Local Governments, Business and media that President Estrada has tagged me as the field officer in the alleged destabilization campaign against the admin. Governor Villafuerte, Governor Bong Revilla and an Administrator of a national government agency also called yesterday to reiterate their concern. A Manila Police officer (a longtime friend) yesterday called to suggest a safe house for me. While I appreciated all these concerns. I politely declined any offer of safe houses.

During the last few days, I closely coordinated the decision of Rep. Alan Cayetano to bolt Lamp and the refusal of Bong Revilla to sign endorsement of support for Erap. I also verified with Mayor Marquez the reported decision to bolt lakas. He denied it. FVR called last night 3 times and made several requests.

Tomorrow, I will leave for the US via Taipei for 3 days. I will stay in our home in Long Beach—the attached calling card. I will have meetings with two US business clients and will stay, perhaps, for two weeks in Long Beach. I will be in touch. Please take care of yourself and please, please look into the welfare of my two daughters in Sun Valley—Amy and Sabina.

I pray as you do.

Sincerely,

Bubby

* * *

Comments: rtiglao@inq7.net.

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BUDGET WATCH

Taming a beast called the deficit

BY TINA ARCEO-DUMLAO

IN her first economic policy speech before a gathering of the country's top business leaders this week, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo faced up to a P255-billion problem—a beast called the budget deficit that refuses to be tamed. The President vowed to cut the monster down to a more manageable P146 billion through a reduction in government spending and other austerity measures.

But she assured the assembled business and industry organizations that this "fiscal prudence" would be carried out without sacrificing economic growth.

The state of public finances has been a major preoccupation of the two-week-old Macapagal Arroyo government. Public spending or lack of it, after all, affects business expectations and confidence.

Business and industry leaders, international lending agencies, foreign investors and market analysts look closely at the government's budget targets as an indicator of where the country's economic and social choices lie.

Government cannot just raise or reduce expenditures as if these were numbers in an equation. There are realities of public opinion, political coalitions and structural features of the economy to consider.

Rolling back the level of government expenditures could lead to serious problems and strains in society as this could impact negatively on the poor.

Household budget

At the risk of being simplistic, one could say that a country's budget is no different from a household budget, except that the numbers run in the billions of pesos.

And just like any household expenditure account, the goal is to balance expenses and receipts, or that receipts should always exceed expenses.

Those who have difficulty paying off their credit cards know that this is easier said than done.

Deficit spending means the government spends more than it earns through taxes, borrowing the difference. The borrowed amounts become part of the government debt.

A review of the state of public finances by incoming Macapagal officials has shown that the P725-billion budget for 2001 proposed by the previous Estrada government cannot be funded using only government revenues.

To complicate matters for the new government, it now appears that the departing administration left more than P70 billion in unpaid accounts, causing the initial estimated deficit of P120 billion to nearly double to P225 billion.

The new Budget Secretary, Emilia Boncodin, has assured that leaving some accounts unpaid is normal practice in the conduct of fiscal affairs and not an indication of wrongdoing.

Under the P146-billion deficit target, revenues to finance this would have to reach P578 billion against total expenditures of P723.1 billion.

Ruinous leadership

Of total revenues, the Bureau of Internal Revenue will have to raise P105.1 billion.

This scenario also assumes that revenues from the sale of privatized assets would reach at least P7 billion.

The impeachment trial and subsequent ouster of deposed President Joseph Estrada occupied much of the nation's time late last year so much so that Congress failed to approve the budget for 2001.

Boncodin has recommended that Congress approve the Estrada-recommended P725-billion budget, confident that adjustments could be made at a later time.

As former Economic Planning Minister Gerardo P. Sicat wrote late last year, Estrada's ruinous economic leadership caused the fiscal deficit to grow from almost zero to the large level that it was in the more than two years that he was president.

"The Asian [financial crisis], abetted by the many mistakes that ruined business perceptions during his [Estrada's] presidency, heightened business risk and uncertainty," said Sicat.

Estrada's all-out war policy in Mindanáo drove up government expenditures. Proceeds from the privatization program were unremarkable. Rampant smuggling and crony intervention in the tax revenue service distorted revenue receipts.

Cautious optimism

The Estrada administration found it impossible to rein in the deficit, beyond making the ambitious projection that it would be able to achieve a balanced budget before the deposed president's term was to have ended in 2004.

According to figures from the defunct Economic Coordinating Council, expenses last year exceeded revenues by as much as P130 billion, more than double the original target of P62.5 billion.

The budget deficit was also P5 billion more than the government's worst-case scenario of P125 billion, P40 billion more than the revised target of P90 billion and P18.3 billion more than the 1999 deficit of P111.7 billion.

With Estrada out and President Macapagal in, there is palpable renewed confidence in the Philippines but optimism over the short-term prospects of the economy remains cautious.

There is continuing concern over the ballooning budget deficit, particularly among multilateral lending agencies.

Dr. Gunter Hecker, Asian Development Bank country director for the Philippines, said the new administration must contain the deficit and improve revenue collection to win back investor confidence.

Official development assistance agencies are concerned that the deficit may reduce allocations for basic services.

Losses from corruption

In a 1999 report, the ADB said that effective tax administration is the key to improving the government's fiscal position.

"Effective tax adminsitration is a more permanent option. There are leaks in the system, either through legal loopholes or outright tax evasion, which send out the wrong signals. The broader context shows the need for improved public sector governance at all levels. Progress in this area, however, requires political and social reforms and a great deal of political will," the ADB said.

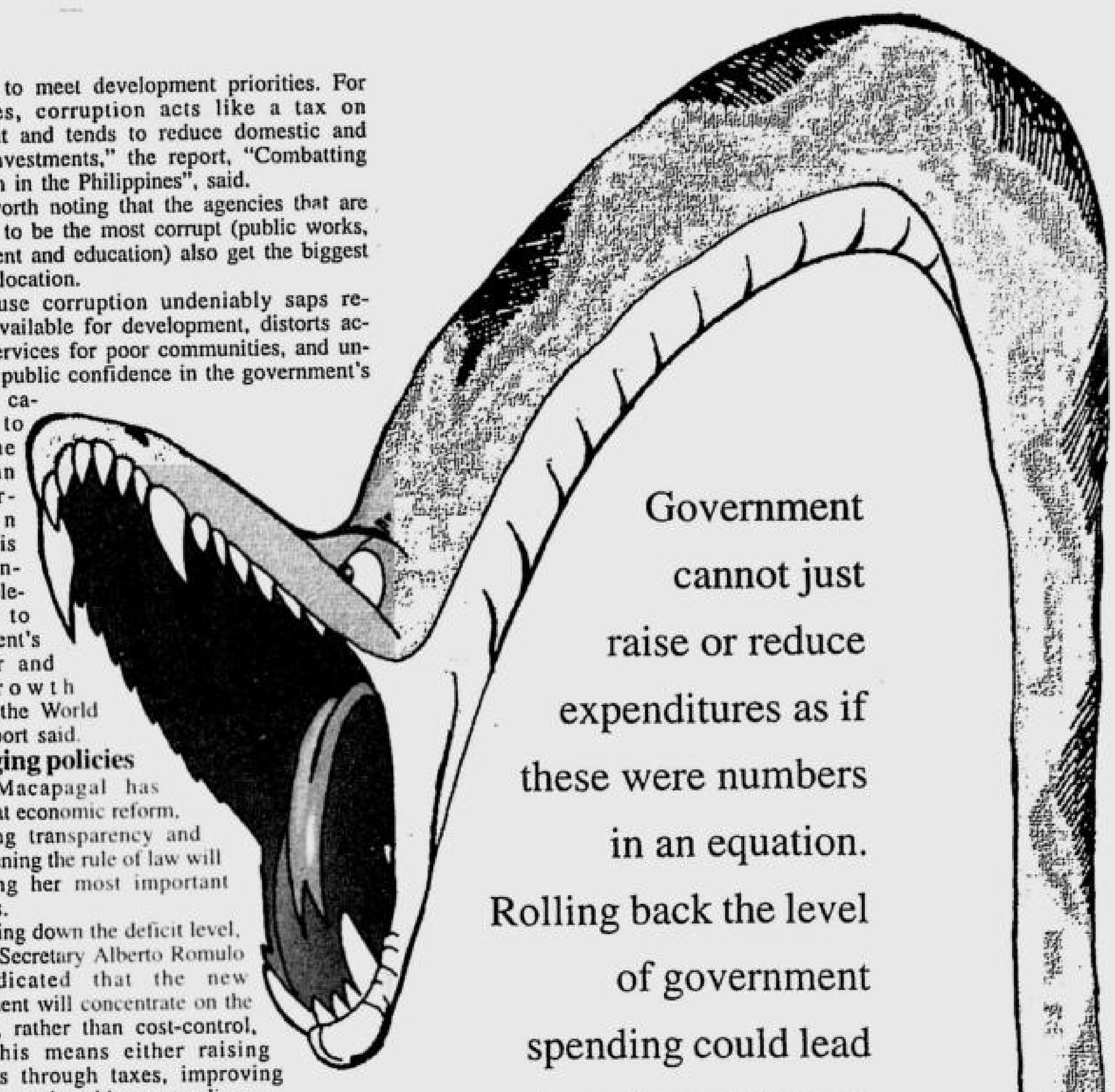
The World Bank, which in 1999 published a report on corruption in the Philippines, has said that it hoped the change in government would put an end to the "pervasive corruption" in the country.

In its report, the bank said corruption causes the loss of scarce resources and cited the strong link between good governance and meaningful efforts to combat poverty.

"Corruption in revenue-generating agencies means less money for the government budget. Misallocation of resources in the budgetary process means less resources to meet development priorities. For businesses, corruption acts like a tax on investment and tends to reduce domestic and foreign investments," the report, "Combatting Corruption in the Philippines", said.

It is worth noting that the agencies that are perceived to be the most corrupt (public works, environment and education) also get the biggest budget allocation.

"Because corruption undeniably saps resources available for development, distorts access to services for poor communities, and undermines public confidence in the government's will and capacity to serve the poor, an anti-corruption strategy is an essential complement to government's pro-poor and pro-growth stance," the World Bank report said.



Emerging policies

Ms Macapagal has stated that economic reform, enhancing transparency and strengthening the rule of law will be among her most important priorities.

To bring down the deficit level, Finance Secretary Alberto Romulo has indicated that the new government will concentrate on the revenue, rather than cost-control, side. This means either raising revenues through taxes, improving collection and curbing smuggling.

Though he initially rejected the idea of borrowing, Romulo has since acknowledged that to finance such a huge budget gap, the government would have to resort to borrowing, either locally or abroad.

Romulo has not indicated how much the government would need to borrow but the Estrada finance department had set this year's total foroeign borrowings at about $400 million.

Preparations are said to be under way for an international roadshow to "sell" the country internationally. This has been taken to mean that the roadshow will be the staging point for a borrowing mission to finance the budget deficit.

2001 budget

Rosario G. Manasan, a senior research fellow at the Philippine Institute for Development Studies, has reviewed the Estrada 2001 budget in a paper entitled "The President's Budget for 2001: Depleted Economic Choices."

She said the Estrada budget "appears to approach poverty reduction from the perspective of sustaining overall economic growth through productivity improvements in the agriculture sector."

She noted that the proposed expenditure program for 2001 "shifts resources in favor of the economic service sectors and general public sectors (i.e. general public administration plus peace and order) and away from the social service sectors."

The shift in resources and funds to general public administration has reduced the allocation for basic education and basic health care this year despite the reallocation of resources within the social services sector towards basic social services.

> Government cannot just raise or reduce expenditures as if these were numbers in an equation. Rolling back the level of government spending could lead to serious problems and strains in society as this could impact negatively on the poor.

"Given the fact that poor families are largely dependent on publicly provided basic social services, this development does not augur well for government's poverty alleviation efforts," the PIDS paper said.

PIDS figures showed that national government spending on general public services is the second fastest growing major item in the 2001 budget, next only to the internal revenue allotment for local governments.

These items include the P2.9 billion for separation and retirement benefits for the government streamlining program; P2.4 billion for the conduct of national election; some P350 million for the modernization of the electoral system; and P595 million for the computerization of the BIR.

Of the economic services sectors, PIDS figures showed that the environment and natural resource management subsector will be getting a bigger share this year compared to last year. The agriculture and agrarian reform subsector will also get a bigger share this year. The Estrada government had indicated it would pursue the modernization of the agriculture and fisheries sectors.

Unfortunately, the proposed spending on infrastructure this year would be lower compared to previous years. The proposed spending of 2.03 percent of GNP is lower than last year's 2.04 percent. It is much lower than the 4.5 percent average in East Asian countries in the 1990s.

This means that Filipinos can expect less government spending on public projects such as new bridges, roads, ports and airports.

Spending cuts

The public can expect similar cuts in social sector projects with the decline in the scheduled expenditures for education, health, social welfare, labor and employment and housing for the year.

PIDS figures show that total social service sector spending per person will decline from P634 in 1997 to P599 in 2000 and only P580 in 2001. This does not augur well for the mass of Filipinos who rely on the government to pay for their health and education requirements.

"The health and the education subsectors are also badly hit by the contraction of the social service sector budget. Allocation for the education subsector dropped from 3.4 percent of GNP in 2000 to 3.2 percent in 2001 compared to an average of 3.3 percent in 1993 to 1998," Manasan said.

The PIDS report warns that a budget deficit that spirals out of control may "lead to a situation where the large stock of government debt leads to an ever increasing debt service burden and consequently, to a vicious circle of high fiscal deficit—high debt burden—low growth."

"Thus, some tradeoff between growth and sustainability becomes apparent in the 2001 expenditure program. Consequently, one cannot overemphasize the need for inmprovements in revenue efforts given the fact that it would be unwise to further reduce government expenditures in an effort to put the national government's fiscal position on the path to sustainability," Manasan said.

PAGE DESIGN ERNIE SAMBO/ ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

National Government Fiscal Position
(in billion pesos)

Particulars	BESF Program 2000	Author's Projections 2000	Difference a/ 2000	BESF Program 2001	Author's Projections 2001	Difference a/ 2001	Author's Projections 2001	Difference a/ 2001
Revenues	**562.426**	**514.563**	**47.86**	**607.199**	**596.270**	**10.929**	**577.004**	**30.20**
Tax Revenues	494.476	461.385	33.09	549.324	535.996	13.328	516.73	32.59
BIR	397.826	360.470	37.36	441.624	424.666	16.968	405.400	36.23
BOC	91.879	96.144	(4.27)	100.470	104.110	-3.64	104.110	(3.64)
Other Offices	4.771	4.771	-	7.220	7.220	-	7.220	-
Non-Tax Revenues	*67.950*	*53.178*	*14.77*	*57.875*	*60.274*	*-2.399*	*60.274*	*(2.40)*
Fees and Charges	21.259	21.259	-	23.304	23.304	-	23.304	-
BTr Income	23.020	28.113	(5.09)	15.194	17.593	-2.399	17.593	(2.40)
Privatization	22.865	3.000	19.87	19.000	19.000	-	19.000	-
Others	0.806	0.806	-	0.377	0.377	-	0.377	-
Disbursements	**624.926**	**631.826**	**(6.90)**	**692.200**	**720.356**	**-28.156**	**720.356**	**(28.16)**
Current Operating Expenditure	545.423	552.323	(6.90)	602.049	630.205	-28.156	630.205	(28.16)
Personal Services	223.272	223.272	-	244.104	244.104	-	244.104	-
MOOE	67.283	67.283	-	71.262	71.262	-	71.262	-
Subsidy	6.208	6.208	-	7.119	7.119	-	7.119	-
Allotments to LGUs	113.863	111.248	2.61	134.656	134.656	-	134.565	-
Interests Payments	129.797	139.312	(9.52)	144.908	173.064	-28.156	173.064	(28.16)
Tax Expenditures	5.000	5.000	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Outlays	*79.503*	*79.503*	-	*90.151*	*90.151*	-	*90.151*	-
Infra/Other Capital Outlays	74.022	74.022	-	84.303	84.303	-	84.303	-
Equity	0.721	0.721	-	0.496	0.496	-	0.496	-
CARP	3.500	3.500	-	4.475	4.475	-	4.475	-
Net Lending	1.260	1.260	-	0.877	0.877	-	0.877	-
Surplus (Deficit)	(62.500)	(117.263)	54.763	(85.001)	(124.086)	38.085	(143.352)	58.35
(percent of GNP)	1.805	3.385	(1.580)	2.206	3.219	(1.013)	3.719	(1.513)

a/ DIFFERENCE = BESFR TARGET LESS AUTHOR'S PROJECTIONS

SOURCE: PIDS

Lucio Tan has high hopes for economy

TAIPAN Lucio Tan, battling allegations that he was one of the closest cronies of ousted President Joseph Estrada, has said he remains hopeful for the Philippine economy and has no regrets about staying and keeping his investments in the Philippines despite "relentless and vicious personal attacks" against him.

Tan, who is also fighting the effects of alleged persecution from the Ramos presidency, said three important teachings of Chinese philosopher Lao Tzu—mercy, moderation and modesty—have kept him going through the years.

He was speaking at the recent 26th founding anniversary and graduation rites of the Southeast Asia Interdisciplinary Development Institute (SAIDI) in Antipolo City, according to a press statement.

"If you're merciful, you can be brave; if you're moderate, you can be generous; and if you don't pressure to lead, you can lead the high and mighty," Tan told his audience which includes two candidates for a doctorate degree in Organizational Development.

Tan, who was recently conferred an honorary doctorate degree in applied agriculture, said his experience as a leader in developing his businesses in the Philippines exposed him to extreme situations.

"On one end, I was identified with people and projects I have helped, while on the other end, I was made to look the person I was not, especially by media, almost without a heart for my fellow human beings," he said.

"I could have easily folded up my businesses and gone somewhere else more favorable and pleasant. But mercy, moderation and modesty have helped me survived the vicious attacks on my person . . . I have no regrets; rather, I am full of hope for this country," he said.

Tan, whose family migrated from Fujian, China in 1938, presides over a conglomerate that employs nearly 50,000 Filipinos. His businesses include investments in agribusiness, air transportation, banking and finance, food and beverages, liquor and alcohol, real estate development and many others.

His flagship companies include Fortune Tobacco, Asia Brewery, Allied Bank, Philippine Airlines, and Philippine National Bank.

Red Cross workshop starts today

TOURISM Secretary Richard Gordon will be the keynote speaker during the opening this afternoon of a weeklong disaster preparedness workshop organized by the Geneva-based International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, (IFRC) at the Fontana Resort and Country Club in Angeles City, Pampanga.

Gordon is also a board member of the Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC) and chairman of the disaster management services committee. He will be introduced by PNRC Secretary General Lourdes Loyola.

Justice Leonor Ines Luciano, PNRC chairman, said the participants are Red Cross key players from various regional delegation of the IFRC across the globe, who are coming together to upgrade their expertise in disaster preparedness program planning and implementation through sharing experiences.

The 30 participants, will come from Switzerland, Denmark, Great Britain, India, Vietnam, Turkey, Papua New Guinea, Cambodia, Sudan, Mozambique, Bangladesh, Thailand, Fuji, Hungary, Sto. Domingo and the Philippines.

To give the welcome remarks is Jesus Lazatin, chairman of the Pampanga-Angeles City Red Cross Chapter and former PNRC governor.

Defense Secretary Eduardo Ermita, chair of the National Disaster Coordinating Council, will be the guest speaker at the closing ceremony on Feb. 10.

GLOBAL MARCH AGAINST CHILD LABOR
3rd YEAR ANNIVERSARY
PHILIPPINES
GLOBAL MARCH

WORKING CHILDREN'S MARCH

Faces of innocent working children and their supporters appear to be begging for attention during yesterday's 3rd Global March against Child Labor, which ended at the Quezon Memorial Circle in Quezon City. The march of 3,000 working children was organized by newly appointed Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman. The marchers carried with them an open letter to President Macapagal-Arroyo challenging her to make quality education responsive to the special needs of working children.

JOAN BONDOC

Gloria warned against dealing with Danding

By Andrea T. Echavez

MILITANT groups yesterday warned President Macapagal-Arroyo about dealing with a close friend of her predecessor, saying the latter was only out to gain influence in her administration to protect his stake in one of the country's largest companies.

Party-list group Bayan Muna said businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr. only wanted to "gain immunity from suit and negotiate with the Macapagal administration" now that Cojuangco's former friend, ex-president Joseph Estrada, was no longer in power.

"It is a calculated move on the part of Danding," Satur Ocampo, Bayan Muna president, said in a statement.

Cojuangco is chairman of San Miguel Corp., a post he regained after Estrada assumed the presidency in 1998.

Just days ago, Cojuangco's political party, the Nationalist People's Coalition, bailed out of its partnership with Estrada's party, the Lapian ng Masang Pilipino. Cojuangco was one of the largest contributors to the presidential campaign of Estrada.

Asked at a press conference in Cebu yesterday about Cojuangco's "feelers" to her administration, Ms Macapagal said, "Let me answer in general terms. Our government is committed to transparency and a level playing field. So that's the principle that will be followed by people who will have to deal with this issue."

COJUANGCO

She added that Finance Secretary Alberto Romulo will be the official who will deal with the matter.

On a reported proposal to have a critical collaboration between her administration and Cojuangco's NPC party, Ms Macapagal replied, "Critical collaboration is not the same as joining forces. There are political questions and I will leave it to my political colleagues to decide."

"Danding dropped his protégé, Estrada, like a hot potato in a vain attempt to gain political leverage under the new administration," Bayan Muna's Ocampo said.

He said Cojuangco apparently made the move to gain immunity from prosecution should his name crop up in the investigation of anomalies committed by Estrada while in office.

Cojuangco, he said, could also be seeking "favorable concessions" from the administration regarding his stake in SMC and the coconut levy trust fund.

Cojuangco and the government are contesting a 47 percent stake in SMC worth over P100 billion. The government says the shares were bought with the coco levy fund which belongs to the country's thousands of poor coconut farmers.

The militant fisherfolk group Pamalakaya said Ms Macapagal should not enter into any compromise with Cojuangco regarding the SMC shares.

"Danding is extending his hand to President Macapagal for the sake of his billions. He's afraid to face criminal charges and send his ill-acquired assets back to sequestration vaults and freezing coffers," Pamalakaya chair Rodolfo Sambajon said.

"An exchange deal with Cojuangco will not only betray the spirit and gains of the second people power revolution, it will spark protests and massive unrest," Sambajon warned.

Pamalakaya dared the Macapagal administration to file charges against Cojuangco, arrest and prosecute him along with Estrada and his other cronies.

Ocampo said that with Cojuangco's money, he could easily launch campaigns against those who played roles in the ouster of his erstwhile protégé Estrada and against the incumbent administration.

He said Cojuangco would be supporting candidates in the May 2001 elections in order to try to control the next Congress. He is apparently seeking a new protégé to field in the 2004 presidential polls, he added.

Dr. Reynaldo Lesaca, Bayan Muna chair, said that because of this their party has adopted a stand against candidates who are closely identified with the Marcos and Estrada regimes, some of whom are in Cojuangco's circle.

Lesaca vowed they would "frustrate" the electoral bid of those candidates who are expected to rush to Cojuangco's side.

"Whether they are from Estrada's party, the LDP, or the NPC, many of them will swear allegiance to Danding. He's the kingmaker and has the resources," Lesaca said.

Higher Davide rating doesn't bother GMA

By Armand N. Nocum

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday said she was not bothered by the fact that Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. enjoys a much higher trust rating among Metro Manila residents than she.

"I am not in a popularity contest," she snapped when asked to react to a recent Pulse Asia survey, which showed Davide's trust rating reaching 48 percent against Ms Macapagal's 44 percent.

In a press briefing in Cebu City where the President went for a daylong official visit, Ms Macapagal said she will just have to continue doing her work as best she can.

"I have to do what is right and do my best and let God do the rest," she said, repeating what she said her father, former President Diosdado Macapagal, had repeatedly advised her.

To those who doubt that she can hold on to the presidency until her term ends in 2004, she replied: "Well, that remains to be seen."

'Lakad Puso' kicks off Heart Month today

THE PHILIPPINE Heart Association (PHA) will observe Heart Month starting today with several activities aimed at promoting good cardiovascular health.

Dr. Edgardo Ortiz, PHA vice president and overall chair of Heart Month celebration, said the celebration will start with the annual Lakad Puso. Assembly will be at the Philippine Heart Center at 5:30 a.m. and will end at the Quezon Memorial Circle.

This will be followed immediately by the Doc Fit Mini Olympics to be participated in by all PHA members.

Following the Doc Fit Mini Olympic is a mass Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) to be conducted by the Council on Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation. The CPR is open to the public.

Other activities include free cholesterol testing and blood pressure check up.

PHA is the country's premier authority on cardiovascular care. It aims to lower the incidence of heart disease through prevention and proper care of the heart.

OUR SINCEREST THANKS TO
Sec. HORACIO "BOY" MORALES
OUR GRATITUDE
Employees Association
(DAREA)

TRIBUTE

FORMER Agrarian Reform Secretary Horacio Morales Jr. receives several gifts and a three-foot tall cake from officials and members of the Department of Agrarian Reform Employees Association (DAREA) during a tribute hosted by the employees union in recognition for his all-out support to its cause. Morales thanked all DAR employees for making his two and a half years in the department fruitful. He urged them to support the new administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo and to be as cooperative with the newly appointed DAR secretary, Hernani Braganza.

MANILA CENTRAL UNIVERSITY
EDSA, Caloocan City

MCU College Entrance Examinations
School Year 2001 - 2002

SCHEDULE
Saturday: January 6 to March 31
8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Monday to Friday: April 9 to May 31
8:30 a.m to 4:30 p.m.

VENUE FOR TESTING: Guidance and Testing Center

Requirements: 1. 2 Copies 2"x 2" ID Pictures
2. 2 Long Folders
3. P 150.00 entrance examination fee

Defiant Wahid plans to sue solons

JAKARTA—Indonesia's embattled president Abdurrahman Wahid is preparing legal action against lawmakers who recently censured him over his alleged role in two graft scandals, a news report said Saturday.

The report in the Media Indonesia newspaper raises the temperature in a mudslinging match between the president and the legislature, which has also threatened to hand over evidence of Wahid's alleged criminal actions to state prosecutors.

"In the near future we will file criminal charges against members and leaders of the parliament," said Indra Sahnun Lubis, the head of Wahid's legal team, as quoted by the daily.

Lubis did not provide details on the possible charges. Such a move would undermine the legality of parliament's action against Wahid, which Lubis described as "slanderous."

None of the president's official spokespersons were available for comment.

On Thursday, an overwhelming majority of legislators endorsed the report of a parliamentary inquiry that found Wahid had misled investigators about his involvement in the two graft cases.

The document claimed Wahid knew about the illegal transfer of $4 million from the coffers of the state food agency, Bulog, by a former business associate. It also slammed him for failing to declare a $2-million aid donation from Sultan Hasanal Bolkiah, the ruler of neighboring oil-rich Brunei.

However, the report contained no conclusive evidence that Wahid had benefited from either scheme.

Wahid has consistently denied any wrongdoing and said the money was spent on relief aid to Aceh province, where a struggle for independence has claimed thousands of lives.

If Wahid does not respond satisfactorily to the parliament's reprimand within 90 days, the legislature can censure him again. A month after that it can open impeachment proceedings.

Analysts fear that Wahid will ignore the house, which he once likened to a kindergarten, triggering a constitutional crisis.

"There will be a deadlock between the legal and political aspects of this case," said Dede Oetomo.

The government appeared to be solidly behind the president.

Before an emergency Cabinet meeting Saturday, justice minister Yusril Ihza Mahendra denied speculation he was planning to resign.

"Resigning means giving in," he told journalists. "If I am in (the Cabinet) it means I can put forward my opinions."

With the vast majority of lawmakers against him, Wahid's political survival hinges largely on the continuing support of his deputy, Megawati Sukarnoputri.

She has yet to comment, but her party—the largest in parliament—led the charge against him along with the Golkar Party of former dictator Suharto.

Ironically, both Golkar and Megawati's Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle have been accused of involvement in corruption.

As the ruling party during Suharto's 32-year dictatorship, Golkar was the main pillar of a regime regarded as one of the most corrupt in the world. And Megawati—whose own husband has been accused of improper business practices—recently was forced to fire 13 party officials because of shady financial dealings. *AP*

WITH President Wahid (right) under fire, Indonesian Vice President Megawati Sukarnoputri becomes the country's president-in-waiting. AP

Megawati: A president-in-waiting

JAKARTA—She is adored by millions as the daughter of Indonesia's founding father, but has long been dismissed as an intellectual lightweight by the elite.

Now Megawati Sukarnoputri has become the country's president-in-waiting and looks set to return to the state palace where she grew up.

Incumbent head of state Abdurrahman Wahid politically outmaneuvered her for the top job 15 months ago and took her on as his deputy.

Today, his political career is on the ropes after parliament this week censured him over his alleged involvement into two corruption scandals, raising the specter of impeachment.

Wahid's troubles have thrust Megawati, 54, into the limelight for the first time since the country's electoral college chose him over her in October 1999.

Ironically, the lawmakers who overlooked her then are looking to her now.

"Megawati is ready to take the lead," said Jacob Tobing, a prominent member of parliament.

Although she is Wahid's partner, she has had little to do with the running of the government after being sidelined by the president and left to do mainly ceremonial work.

But he may have done her a favor. With few responsibilities, she was not tainted by his troubles.

For a long time, she was criticized and even lampooned for not speaking out. She has rarely given interviews and limited her public utterances to prepared speeches.

Her critics pointed to her reticence as proof that she lacked the intellectual heft to run the country.

But with Wahid increasingly discredited by his mercurial temperament and penchant for making wild and contradictory statements, many Indonesians have come to view Megawati's silence as golden.

Much of her popularity is rooted in her pedigree. She is the eldest daughter of Sukarno, who declared independence from Dutch colonial rule in 1945.

Sukarno united the sprawling, ethnically diverse archipelago and his memory is still revered by many. He was ousted from the presidency in 1967, a year after the military crushed an alleged communist coup attempt.

"It is useful for Megawati to be seen as the successor to her father's legacy," said George Aditjondro, a professor at Australia's Newcastle University. "She can use the past to fight the problems of the present."

When Gen. Suharto pushed Sukarno from office and left him to die under house arrest in 1970, he set up a highly controlled political system which guaranteed his grip on power for 32 years.

He allowed Megawati to take on the leadership of one of only three parties permitted to operate under the authoritarian regime.

"As a political figure, Megawati is a creation of Suharto's dictatorship," said Dede Oetomo, a prominent political analyst. "Her father would be ashamed of her." *AP*

1st of 7 US cargo planes lands in India with aid

AHMEDABAD, India—US Air Force C-17 cargo planes loaded with aid began arriving in India's devastated quake-zone Saturday as relief workers race to distribute food, medicine and supplies among hundreds of thousands of survivors before disease spreads.

The demolition of damaged buildings gathered pace. Soldiers piled clothes, broken furniture and children's toys in front of ruined buildings and survivors made last-minute forays into the rubble to scavenge possessions before crews moved into to knock down the remains of their homes.

The first of seven American C-17s touched down just before 8 a.m. Saturday in Ahmedabad, the largest city in Gujarat state, carrying personnel. A bottleneck in the relief effort has been a lack of people to unload vital aid off cargo planes.

A second plane with equipment such as forklifts arrived in the afternoon.

"This is just one part of the US relief effort and we are very pleased to help in this time of need," said Maj. Jeffrey Wright, assistant Army attaché at the US Embassy in New Delhi.

Wright dismissed complaints that the recovery effort has been disorganized, saying: "Given the size of the calamity, there are a lot of people doing a lot of good work."

More US planes were headed in. The remaining five flights expected on Saturday were loaded with aid, including sleeping blankets, tents and other supplies for the survivors of the 7.7-magnitude Jan. 26 earthquake.

A six-person military assessment team was sent from US Pacific Command headquarters in Hawaii to assist the US Embassy in evaluating potential additional Pentagon assistance to the relief effort. An American 747 cargo plane, carrying an additional $4 million in aid from the US Agency for International Development will land on Monday, probably in New Delhi.

Confusion continued over the actual death toll. Late Friday, a top state official in Gujarat put the number of bodies so far recovered at 15,088, but the Gujarat state control room on Saturday morning put the toll at 11,341. The number of injured was 62,729. *AP*

Trainees burn tires to support striking teachers in Cambodia

PHNOM PENH—More than 100 trainee teachers burned tires and posted placards on the gates of their college in the Cambodian capital Saturday to show solidarity with striking teachers.

Twenty police monitored the demonstration, which drew dozens of onlookers near the Independence Monument in the city center. There was no violence or arrests.

The protesters were showing support for an undetermined number of teachers who began a strike Thursday for higher wages. Though few joined the strike in Phnom Penh, organizers claimed thousands of teachers stayed away from work nationwide.

Tire burning is a common tactic used by demonstrators in Cambodia.

One protester, Lay Van Say, a 26-year-old teacher trainee, said he backed the teachers' demands for raises in monthly salary from the equivalent of $25 to $100.

The minimum wage for factory workers is $45 per month, above average in mostly agrarian Cambodia, but marginally sufficient to care for a family.

Cambodia has about 85,000 teachers. Its educational system has not recovered from the events of the late 1970s, when the Khmer Rouge regime emptied the cities in a violent effort to create a communist agrarian state. Many intellectuals were killed. After its fall in 1979, civil war prevented the proper rebirth of state education.

Teachers regularly sell exam answers and class space to survive, education officials acknowledge. The elite sends their children to study abroad.

Bun Sok, an undersecretary of state at the education ministry, admitted Saturday that many teachers struck Thursday in Kandal, Kompong Cham and Kompong Speu provinces and in the major southern city of Sihanoukville. But he claimed they would be in classrooms Monday. *AP*

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IMPROVED
Colgate
Maximum Cavity Protection
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For Stronger teeth every time you brush!
Colgate lang ang may exclusive calcium at 2-fluoride formula na nagbabalik ng lost calcium para tumibay ang ngipin!

World's 1st transplant hand amputated

SYDNEY—Surgeons in London have amputated the hand of the world's first hand transplant patient, an Australian microsurgeon said yesterday.

Prof. Earl Owen said the transplanted hand was removed at New Zealander Clint Hallam's request after his body rejected it.

Owen, who was among an international team that transplanted the hand onto Hallam in a groundbreaking 13-hour operation in September 1998, said Hallam had failed to follow correct treatment advised by doctors.

But speaking on Friday night's edition of the British Broadcasting Corporation's "Newsnight" current affairs program, Hallam denied that the rejection was sparked by his failure to take his medication.

"At the time that the rejection started I was under a strict regime," he told the program. "The doctors were monitoring almost on a daily basis what medication I was taking."

He said that he only gave up taking the medicine several months later so that his body could recover from a bout of flu.

"I'm convinced that there has come a stage with the number of rejections that I have experienced that my body or my mind has said, 'Enough is enough.'"

Last year, Hallam underwent treatment at a West Australian hospital for rejection of the hand.

Hallam made international headlines when surgeons grafted the hand of a 41-year-old motorcyclist on to his forearm. Hallam lost his right hand in a chain saw accident while serving a two-year prison sentence for fraud in New Zealand.

Doctors in Louisville, Ky., have performed a similar operation since then, and a team led by the French surgeon who attached Hallam's new hand has performed a double arm transplant.

In 1999, Hallam said he hoped one day to learn to play the piano and said he already was performing simple tasks with the hand such as holding a cup of coffee and swimming. *AP*

Israeli Arabs plan election boycott

KAFR KASSEM, Israel—Just days before Israel's election, boycott is the buzzword in Arab communities across Israel.

Polls indicate some 60 percent of Israeli Arab voters will stay home on election day—a devastating blow to Prime Minister Ehud Barak of the moderate Labor Party who is trailing hardline opposition leader Ariel Sharon by 20 points.

Labor Party candidates have relied heavily on the Arab vote. But many of Israel's 1.2 million Arab citizens say sitting out the vote is the only way to show the party they can no longer be taken for granted.

Arab leaders acknowledge that by flexing their political muscle now, they are also helping Sharon, reviled by many Arabs, and hurting their Palestinian brethren's prospects for statehood.

However, Israeli Arabs say the time has come to take care of the community's most pressing interest—ending decades of discrimination and neglect by Israeli governments.

"The main issue for Israeli Arabs is beginning to be their citizenship, their status in Israel," said Jafar Farah, director of the Mussawa Center, an Arab advocacy group.

"People say that at any rate, there will be a Palestinian state in the next few years but we will be citizens here forever," Farah said.

The boycott, endorsed by the two main Arab parties, is part of a long-term strategy to create political leverage, Israeli Arab legislators said.

"It is a clear message to Barak and Sharon that the Arabs have an independent political position," said Arab lawmaker Taleb as-Sana. "We want to deliver an electric shock to the political system."

Arab leaders were not even moved by recent appeals by several senior Palestinian Authority officials to drop the boycott and support Barak, who had offered the Palestinians statehood in most of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Palestinian leaders are increasingly worried about a Sharon victory, which would freeze peacemaking and dim independence prospects.

The Israeli Arabs' defiant stance signals that they are increasingly developing an identity separate from that of their Palestinian brethren in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The two groups are, in a sense, one people—but have been geographically divided since Israel's creation in 1948, and this has left a mark.

While the Palestinians have endured decades of Israeli military occupation and remain a traditional society, the Arabs of Israel are citizens of a Westernized nation with democratic rights—albeit they are often subject to discrimination—and they tend to be less conservative.

The about 500,000 eligible Arab voters make up 12.5 percent of the Israeli electorate of 4.5 million. In Israel's May 1999 election, galvanized by the prospect of peace and Barak's promises of equality, 77 percent of Arab voters turned out, and of those casting ballots, 95 percent supported Barak. *AP*

AN ISRAELI gay activist in drag stands next to a poster of Likud party candidate Ariel Sharon during a rally by gay and lesbian groups in support of Prime Minister Ehud Barak in Tel Aviv, Feb. 2. The Israeli election is set for Feb. 6. AP

Annan urges Congo leaders to start dialogue with rebs

UNITED NATIONS—Diplomatic efforts to end the most complex war in Africa move into higher gear Friday as President Joseph Kabila of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) meets top officials at the UN.

He was due to confer with Secretary General Kofi Annan, who said "a new climate" had developed since the assassination last month of Kabila's father, Laurent Kabila.

Annan told reporters that he would impress upon Kabila the importance of starting a political dialogue with rebel groups, which control the eastern half of his vast country.

Both Annan and the Security Council expressed frustration with the late president's reluctance to enter the dialogue, a key element of a ceasefire agreement signed by six countries in Lusaka on July 10, 1999.

"We want to see progress, not only on the military front but also on the political front," Annan said.

"Some of those fighting today are fighting because they want to have a stake or a say in the political process in the Congo, so the two are intertwined and we need to find ways of making progress on both fronts."

One of the largest rebel groups is backed by Rwanda, which also has troops in DRCongo, fighting former soldiers of the genocidal regime, which was expelled from Rwanda in 1994.

Annan said he was encouraged by the face-to-face meeting between Joseph Kabila and Rwandan President Paul Kagame, who met for the first time in Washington on Thursday.

"I believe that we have an opportunity to move the peace process forward," he said.

Kabila was due to take part later Friday in an open meeting of the UN Security Council, which has scheduled a two-day session on Feb. 21 and 22 with all six signatories to the Lusaka agreement.

In his inauguration speech on Jan. 26, Kabila said he hoped the council would "honor its commitments" by deploying UN peacekeeping forces speedily to supervise a disengagement of foreign troops from his country. *AFP*

Ecuador's Noboa declares state of emergency

QUITO—President Gustavo Noboa declared a state of emergency following a week of Indian protests against recent government-mandated bus fare hikes and fuel subsidy cuts.

Noboa took the action late Friday after weighing "a situation of national unrest," said government spokesperson Alfredo Negrete, referring to days of demonstrations in the capital by some 4,000 Indians and blockades of provincial highways in the countryside.

The protesters—led by the Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities, Ecuador's largest Indian movement—have occupied Salesiana Polytechnic University near downtown Quito since Monday, using it as a base for demonstrations.

Several protesters were injured Tuesday after clashes with police, who used tear gas to break up marches. The Indians have also blockaded provincial highways, preventing meat and produce from getting into the capital, driving up market prices of dwindling food supplies.

Noboa's presidential decree prohibits unauthorized demonstrations, gives police and the military the authority to restrict individual freedom of travel within the country, and the right to conduct searches of private homes and property without a court order.

"At the moment the situation has disappeared, the state of emergency will be immediately lifted," Negrete told reporters.

Noboa declared the state of emergency less than three hours after a breakdown in negotiations with Indian leaders.

They had said they were considering a government offer to end demonstrations in exchange for a promise of increased social spending and a pledge not to impose more subsidy cuts this year.

But Indian movement leader Antonio Vargas said he planned to increase the intensity of the demonstrations after Noboa apparently refused to meet personally with him and other protest organizers. *AP*

Clinton recovering from 8 years of 'real exhaustion'

CHAPPAQUA, New York—Less than two weeks after leaving Washington for suburbia, former US President Bill Clinton finds himself out of touch with world events.

"It's amazing how oblivious you can get to what's going on," Clinton said. "I'm not sure I'm up to speed."

Clinton spoke to reporters Thursday, one day before he met with members of the Indian-American business community and India government officials based in New York City to plan fundraising for victims of the Jan. 26 earthquake in India.

In his first expansive comments to American reporters about life after the White House, Clinton said his semi-cloistered time in Chappaqua—sleeping late, walking the dog, skimming rather than studying the newspapers—has helped him recover from the strain of leading the country.

CLINTON

"I've got eight years of accumulated, real exhaustion," Clinton said Thursday, occasionally stopping to sign autographs and pose for snapshots with Chappaqua residents outside a restaurant. "Everybody I talked to said, 'You're going to go up there and you're not going to have any idea how tired you are.' For the first time . . . I can get up when I want to get up."

Not that he sleeps that late. He said he has been getting up about 8 a.m.

"I try to sleep," he said. "I'm really trying to get myself in good shape and with this great kind of therapy—transition therapy—working on the house, putting the books up and the pictures and making sure everything's in working order, that's been just great."

He has been favoring casual clothes, especially denim jackets; one bore a picture of the White House, a bucking donkey and the legend "Clinton Democrats."

"That's from 1992," he said. "Isn't it great?"

Clinton has been polite with journalists camped outside the house these past two weeks, but until now he gave mostly brief answers to questions about his adjustment to private life.

He did sit for an interview with an Israeli TV station Thursday, but said afterward, "It was kind of weird doing an interview again.

I might be a half-step slow . . . rusty after only two weeks."

The rust may be coming off soon as Clinton seems ready to re-enter public life, maintain his influence and make some money for himself and others.

Clinton Friday met for three hours with Victor Menezes, president and CEO of Citibank and Citicorp, and about a dozen other Indian American business leaders, with other executives joining in by phone. He said that he had spoken by phone Thursday night with the prime minister of India.

Clinton said he and the Indian executives were joining together to form a group called Americans for Indian Relief, which will raise funds to help victims of the Indian earthquake.

Clinton will speak on Monday—for $100,000—at a brokerage convention in Florida, and next Saturday at a synagogue. His longtime friend and fund-raiser Terry McAuliffe is expected to be elected this weekend as chair of the Democratic National Committee.

If Chappaqua is any guide, the public is ready to see him, despite criticism of his last-minute pardons and his rental of high-priced office space in New York City. The former president's occasional expeditions for lunch—sometimes takeout, sometimes eat-in—quickly draw crowds.

On Thursday—after stopping at a bank, apparently to get some cash—he took a window seat at the Chappaqua Restaurant and Café and had a leisurely meal with press spokesperson Jake Siewert as scores of people gawked outside. *AP*

Philippine Dental Association
and
Colgate
celebrate
THE 51st NATIONAL DENTAL HEALTH WEEK
February 3-9, 2001

"Munting Ngiti Tungo sa Maningning na Kinabukasan"

Declaration of Filipino Children's Right to Good Oral Health

Oral health is everybody's concern. As health professionals, we are committed to give our share to improve the oral health status of our people. The traditional National Dental Health Week is a manifestation of this commitment.

The Philippine Dental Association, being the lead organization to drum up the oral health consciousness among the populace, has been zealously waging this campaign for the last 51 years. With this year's theme "Munting Ngiti Tungo Sa Maningning na Kinabukasan" (Declaration of Filipino Children's Right to Good Oral Health), and with the profound help and dedication of all our 97 chapters and 20 affiliate societies nationwide, somehow, we know we have given our share in the shaping of the oral health profile of the nation despite the economics involved.

Congratulations to each and every member of the PDA who are conscious of this commitment to serve.

DEAN RENATO M. SISON, DMD
President
Philippine Dental Association

As we celebrate the 51st National Dental Health Week, it is but fitting to reflect on the essence of Presidential Proclamation No. 235 which was issued by then President Elpidio R. Quirino declaring the period February 3-9 of each year as NDHW.

Looking back, the 51 years that passed saw PDA, with the help of some sponsors, undertaking various measures to promote the importance of dental health consciousness among our people. Although the government lacks the necessary funds to efficiently address the oral health care delivery program in the country, the PDA has relentlessly pursued all efforts within its means to lead its members in the promotion of good oral health especially in the unserved and underserved communities.

I take this opportunity to thank and commend all our 97 chapters and 20 affiliate societies who are committed and all those involved in this year's celebration, especially the members of the Executive Committee and the Working Committees of the 51st National Dental Health Celebration.

JAIME P. FRANCISCO, DMD
General Chairman
51st National Dental Health Week

PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES:

FEBRUARY 03 - SATURDAY
3:00 pm
PDA Open House/
Dr. EstelitaRamos-Olivas
Board Room Dedication
PDA Bldg.

FEBRUARY 04 - SUNDAY
6:00 am
Alay Lakad
Quirino Grandstand, Luneta
with simultaneous opening
ceremonies at
North Luzon: Angeles City Chapter
South Luzon: Laguna Chaper
Visayas: Cebu City Chapter
Mindanao: Ozamis Chapter

FEBRUARY 05 - MONDAY
8:00 am - 5:00 pm
Community Outreach
8:00 am - 12:00 pm
Chapters, Affiliates Civic Action

FEBRUARY 06 - TUESDAY
8:00 am - 4:00 pm
Slogan (Poster) Contest, PDA Bldg.
8:00 am - 5:00 pm
PDA Indigency Clinic, PDA Bldg.
8:00 am - 5:00 pm
Cleft Lip & Palate Operation
Laguna General Hospital
8:00 am - 12:00 pm
Ladrido Memorial Lecture
Manila Midtown Hotel

FEBRUARY 07 - WEDNESDAY
8:00 am - 5:00 pm
National Community Outreach
Program Launching

FEBRUARY 08 - THURSDAY
8:00 am - 5:00 pm
Isla Puting Bato / Marcelo Outreach
Program
8:00 am - 12:00 pm
PDA Indigency Clinic

FEBRUARY 09 - FRIDAY
8:00 am - 5:00 pm
PDA Indigency Clinic
11:00 am
Closing Ceremonies
Trader's Hotel

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Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

Police hunt kidnappers of 3 women

LEGAZPI CITY—Members of the police's Special Action Force (SAF) and the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF) are tracking down suspects in the kidnapping of two daughters of a Chinese-Filipino businessman in Camarines Sur and their company secretary on Tuesday.

On Friday, another group from the PAOCTF and the PNP-SAF rescued Kevin Joshua Burgos, 9, and his brother James Stephen, 6. Three of the four men who seized the two boys and held them for two days in Barangay Calayucay, Sto. Domingo, Albay, were killed.

Chief Supt. Marcelo Navarro Jr., police regional director, confirmed the kidnapping of Salvacion Co Say Tan and her sister Nene, who own Bescom Marketing, and their employee, Susan Casano.

The Cosays are daughters of Maximo Cosay, owner of one of Bicol's large oil mills and a sugar and rice trader.

A report reaching Camp Simeon Ola, police regional office here, said the abductors had called up the Cosay family and demanded a P40-million ransom for their release.

Police said the Cosays and Casano were on board a green Toyota Corolla car with license plate No. WCY-716 when armed men flagged them down in Barangay Palestina, Pili town, right after the traffic-prone Marapong Bridge, around 5 p.m. on Jan. 30.

The victims were bound for Naga City from Pili, Camarines Sur.

Armed with M-16 and Uzi rifles and a .45 cal. pistol, the abductors forced the victims to board a white Toyota Hi-ace van which sped toward Metro Manila along with the victims' car, police said.

About 7 p.m., members of the Traffic Management Group in Naga recovered the victims' car at the Camalabat Bridge in Sitio Lagatik, Barangay Taisan, Sipocot along the Quirino Highway going to Manila. They earlier received a tip from the residents about the car's presence some 50 kilometers from Naga City.

Insp. Elcid Roldan of the TMG said the car belong to a certain Fe Chua.

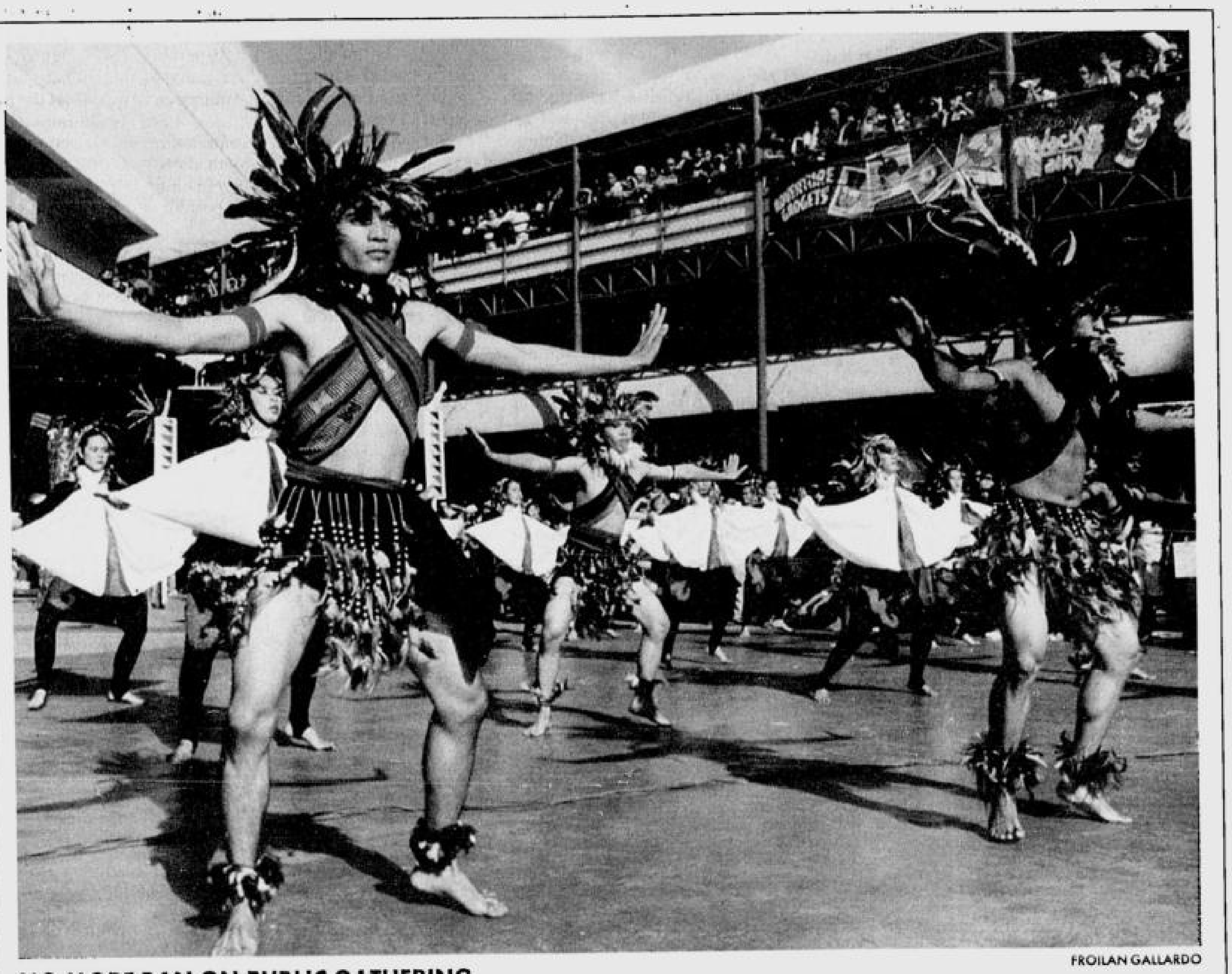
Roldan said witnesses told them that three women were blindfolded and forced to disembark from their car.

Witnesses said among the kidnappers were two men riding on a Yamaha motorcycle.

Supt. Francisco Peñaflor said the kidnappers avoided the highway going to Naga and took a detour route through the Minalabac town, coming out in San Fernando town.

Minutes after the abduction, the Naga police received a false report that a holdup men struck at the Camarines Sur II Electric Cooperative main office about 2 km from where the women were seized.

On Tuesday, Peñaflor deployed three teams to several barangays in Naga, including Pacol at the foot of Mt. Isarog. The search operations have remained fruitless. *Juan Escandor and Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*



FROILAN GALLARDO

NO MORE BAN ON PUBLIC GATHERING

Cultural dancers perform before a crowd in front of a mall in the downtown area of Cagayan de Oro City last week. Events like this have returned to the city after 10 months when local authorities forbade any public gathering for fear of terrorist bombings.

6-year-old kidnap victim released

ISABELA, Basilan—Abductors on Friday night freed 6-year-old April Grant after holding her in captivity for 23 days.

Col. Saulito Aromin, 103rd Army Brigade commander, said the girl was released by her abductors to the military and police in Barangay Kasanyangan in Tuburan town.

Aromin said the suspects were forced to free the girl due to "extreme pressure."

Aromin said banca-riding kidnappers turned over the victim to the negotiators at mid-sea.

Mina Rasul-Grant, the victim's mother, joined police and military forces in recovering the girl in Barangay Kasanyangan.

"I'm very happy. I don't know what to say right now. I just would like to thank the military, the police and all my relatives who helped," Mina said.

She said that although her relatives were among those suspected behind the abduction, "the truth is, they supported me."

The victim said the kidnappers moved her from one island to another.

"Sometimes we took speedboats, sometimes we walked. We walked very fast," April told her mother.

April, a second grader at the Lamitan Elementary School, said her captors fed her rice, fish, biscuits and water.

"But I feel fine, they didn't harm me," she said.

Mina said she gave P10,000 to the kidnappers, "for my daughter's food and medicines."

She said they also took April's gold bracelet, earrings and ring.

"As soon as I can contact the British Embassy today and my husband, we will leave Basilan," Mina, who is married to a British national, said.

"I don't want to go back there (Lamitan)," April said.

The girl said she could still recognize her kidnappers.

Mina denied that some of her relatives were behind the abduction.

"That is not true. In fact, they were the ones who supported us in the negotiation," she said.

But Aromin said Mina's cousin was used as a guide by the six kidnappers, led by a certain Commander Aiyub Ahalul and the Ajjani brothers.

Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Gregorio Camiling said government troops were still pursuing the suspects. "We will not stop the operation," he said. *Julie Alipala-Inot, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Army starts waging 'all-out peace'

DAVAO CITY—The Army will start waging its "all-out peace" campaign as it abandons the all-out war policy of ousted President Joseph Estrada.

Maj. Gen. Ernesto Carolina, chief of the 7th infantry division (ID), said a blueprint was being drawn to redefine the Army's specific roles and activities in view of the Macapagal administration's thrust of reconstructing the peace process.

Carolina said the blueprint would highlight the developmental role of the Army instead of limiting its activities to carrying out attacks against the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and the communist New People's Army (NPA).

He said the Army would be involved in the implementation of the government's "catch-up programs," a development concept focusing on the delivery of social services to depressed provinces and communities so they will be able to catch up with the more progressive areas in the country.

The Army would also pursue infrastructure projects in areas perceived as critical due to threats from the MILF and the NPA, he added.

In some areas, he said, bulldozers would take the place of military tanks to repair roads and to build new ones.

He said several farm-to-market road projects, especially in the hinterland areas here, had not prospered because no contractor would want to take the project for fear of rebel attacks.

Among the projects which the 55th Engineering Brigade plans to pursue this year are the 17-kilometer road connecting the remote area of Paradise Embac in Paquibato to Buhangin District here; 30 km of farm-to-market roads in the hinterland areas of Monkayo town in Compostela Valley;

Bailey bridges in far-flung areas in Agusan del Sur; and agricultural facilities and schoolhouses in provinces in Caraga and Southeastern Mindanao.

Carolina said the military was also planning to negotiate with lawmakers to channel portions of their countrywide development funds to the Army's infrastructure projects in the rural areas.

But he said the Army would not lower their guard even as they pursue "all-out peace."

He said soldiers would continue marshalling in the boundaries of the provinces to prevent rebel groups from expanding their territories.

Troops would not be pulled out from communities as demanded by human rights groups and civilians affected by the government's old war policy, he said.

Military operations would be pursued against armed rebel groups, he said, threatening key areas in the region but these would be "restrained."

"Going back to the peace negotiation does not mean we will no longer address the armed threat on the ground, but military actions will be more restrained this time," he said. *Jowel Canuday, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

'GUARANTEE PEACE'

War refugees appeal to Gloria

BAGUIO CITY—More than 25,000 Muslim refugees, many of them stranded without real homes or work in Northern Luzon after fleeing a military campaign in Mindanao, have asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to "guarantee Mindanao peace so they can return home."

"They are the real stories that do not get printed in the news because these refugees hid from the war and continue to hide from government for fear they will be arrested just for being Muslims. This is the legacy of Joseph Estrada to the Muslim Filipinos," said Abdullah Macarimpas, regional director of the Office of Muslim Affairs for the Ilocos, Cagayan Valley and Cordillera.

Macarimpas said many refugees here left Mindanao last year during the military campaign against the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the extremist Abu Sayyaf.

Estrada launched an all-out war against the MILF after peace talks with the group broke down.

"That was a betrayal. Muslims who were in other parts of the country felt deceived by Erap because he made war when the peace talks was in process," said Macarimpas.

"There was peace again in Mindanao after martial law when (former Presidents Corazon Aquino and Fidel Ramos) launched talks with (Moro National Liberation Front Chair) Nur Misuari only to be broken later by Erap," said Mohammad Cali, president of the Baguio Muslim Ja'maah Federation.

That war placed the whole country on a civil war footing, because it inadvertently opened the gateway for other rebel groups to re-group or grow, said Antonio Tujan, co-founder of the alternative economic think-tank IBON Foundation Inc. in a forum here last week.

Tujan said the real repercussion of the Mindanao war could be detected from the communist rebel front because all 120 outposts of the New People's Army in the country had doubled in strength since Marcos' martial law years.

Macarimpas said Ms Macapagal should first address the victims of the Mindanao war.

"Many of the refugees have been surviving by selling (trinkets) on the streets. Their children sell plastic bags in the market. They want to go home and they blame Erap for their miseries. The Muslims hate Erap even more than they did (the late strongman Ferdinand) Marcos," Macarimpas said.

Many of the refugees refused government assistance and had kept away from welfare officials "because they fear military harassment and surveillance," he said.

This paranoia continues to afflict many of these refugees, a big percentage of them travel frequently to Baguio to trade, Macarimpas explained.

Last year, Macarimpas refused attempts made by the military to take a census of migrant Muslim communities now based in Northern Luzon.

"That was why we consciously avoided documenting the refugees here. We wanted to make sure they were not detected by the military. These are scared people. They are victims," he said. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Crash victims' relatives urge release of ₱7M for memorial

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—A shrine commemorating the 1997 Cebu Pacific air crash has become the latest casualty in the change of political administrations.

Misamis Oriental Gov. Antonio Calingin said the release of the P7-million allocation for the shrine was delayed because of the shift of political power in Malacañang.

The money, coming from the budget of Sen. Robert Jaworski, was supposed to be used for the construction of a two-hectare shrine in Mt. Sumagaya, Misamis Oriental.

A total of 104 passengers and crew members of Cebu Pacific died when the plane slammed into Sumagaya on Feb. 3, 1998.

"I hope the new administration will facilitate the release of the money," Calingin said.

The announcement came as relatives observed the third anniversary of the crash Friday by attending Mass at the Oro Garden Cemetery here. Most of the victims were buried there.

Calingin urged newly installed Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon to help facilitate the release of the funds from Jaworski.

"We received already a notice for Special Advise Release Order (Saro) and we are waiting for its release," he said.

The money was to be used for the construction of the shrine at the foot of Sumagaya. The shrine includes a chapel, a viewing deck and cottages.

Calingin said 104 trees would be planted around the shrine, representing those who died in the plane crash. *Froilan Gallardo, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Political ambition spawns hostage-taking

By Juan Escandor
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LEGAZPI CITY—Political ambition reportedly made a local political aspirant in a small coastal town in Albay do the worst to pursue his career.

With no funds for his political comeback on the May 14 elections, Rogelio Lopera, former councilman and an aspiring candidate for vice mayor in Manito town, allegedly masterminded the hostage-taking of his friend's two sons and demanded P2 million in ransom for their release.

Lopera, however, failed and was killed along with two companions by members of the Philippine National Police Special Weapons and Tactics Team and the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force on Friday at the Reyes Beach Resort in Sto. Domingo, Albay.

Supt. Reynaldo Rafal, police provincial director, said the assault on the hideout was decided as final option since the hostage takers turned down negotiations.

Rafal said that after two days of negotiations, Chief Supt. Marcelo Navarro Jr., Bicol police chief, gave the go-signal to use force.

Wilfredo Pranes, one of the four kidnappers who was wounded and captured, told police authorities that Lopera decided to do the daring and amateurish crime to raise funds for his candidacy.

Lopera was a friend to Esmeraldo Burgos, father of the victims. He had an account in Insular Life Savings Bank in Legazpi, where Burgos works as manager.

Akira Bernal, Burgos' wife, also knew Lopera as he was her townmate.

Police authorities got a hint that one of the kidnappers could be known to the Burgos' family because the Burgos brothers, who were taken as hostages at Room C of the Reyes Beach Resort, seemed to maintain their childish innocence.

Looking out through a window of the room where the boys were taken, they waved and smiled naturally at the negotiators at the height of the hostage drama.

The negotiators even heard the boys calling one of the kidnappers "Tito George" while playing inside the room.

Several negotiators, who included Monsignor Jose Sorra of the Archdiocese of Legazpi, Sto. Domingo Mayor Norma Balaoro and the town's parish priest, Eric Martillano, failed to convince the kidnappers to surrender.

Pranes, a native of Manito town and resident of San Mateo, Rizal, said Lopera fetched him and asked him to drive for the kidnapping operation.

He claimed he was promised by Lopera P25,000 for his participation, aside from making him Lopera's driver if he is elected Manito vice mayor.

He said he left Pasay City on Jan. 30 aboard a Nissan Sentra car, together with Lopera, his brother Efren, and a certain Aurello Borras, who were all natives of Manito.

The following day, Pranes said, they reached Sipocot, a three-and-a-half hour drive from Legazpi, and abandoned the car. They took a bus to Daraga and proceeded to their hideout in Vel-Amor Subdivision here.

He said that at 11 a.m., they stalked the Burgoses and took control of the victims' car. They proceeded to the Reyes Beach Resort where the police caught up with them.

Burgos said he alighted in Barangay Padang, about halfway between the resort and Legazpi, and was given a letter demanding a P2-million ransom.

He said the letter was allegedly signed by a certain Kumander Awa, a notorious fugitive wanted for the ambush of former Pilar (Sorsogon) mayor Manuel Sia and several highway robbery cases.

The bank executive, however, did not hesitate to report the abduction to police authorities.

Gloria urged: Shed free trade image

BAGUIO CITY—President Macapagal-Arroyo must shed her image as champion of global free trade and offer industries some "protectionist cover," after ousted President Joseph Estrada left the economy weak and on a civil war footing, said the alternative economic think tank Ibon Foundation Inc. this week.

Addressing a forum at the University of the Philippines College Baguio on Wednesday, Antonio Tujan, Ibon research director, said Ms Macapagal's "traditional corporate impulse would be to revive foreign investor confidence, domestic business confidence, and consumer confidence."

"In other words, restore the kind of growth generated by former President (Fidel) Ramos," he said.

But Ms Macapagal may have to "strike a balance between neo-liberalism and protectionism" to restore genuine business confidence, Tujan said.

Radical protectionist policies to shield agriculture and domestic retail trade from globalization had become a trend in East Asia to rebuke the so-called G-7 countries' unbalanced trade deals with this region, he said.

"(Malaysian Prime Minister) Mahathir Mohammed won his gambit when he continued to issue protective cover to certain industries (there despite international protests)... and all other East Asian countries are following his example," Tujan said.

More importantly, he said Ms Macapagal would need to find an economic consensus because her government sits on a fragile "democratic momentum" built on a tactical alliance among a fractured elite, the middle class and left militant groups, he said.

Tujan said a striking detail of the Estrada administration was the fact that both business and labor complained about an economic plunge, in spite of gains heralding the country's growth.

He said Estrada actually galvanized growth rates through increased government spending during the Mindanao war.

The country posted a 4-percent growth rate during Estrada's first year in office, which far outmatched the half-percent growth posted during the first years of former Presidents Corazon Aquino and Ramos.

"But business was not complaining about the near 1-percent growth during Ramos' term. Yet they were complaining when the Estrada government (posted) 4 percent growth," he said.

Curiously, the growing monopolies of Estrada's cronies like Lucio Tan disturbed the businessmen more, because the former president befriended "Pacmen," who threatened the rest of Corporate Philippines, Tujan said.

"Every businessman wants to be a crony . . . But Tan was not sharing. *Dapat bigayan iyan* (There should be some sharing)," he said.

Ideally, Tujan said, Ms Macapagal should be able to address grassroots economics, restore money to small businesses instead of relying on foreign investments, and upgrade rural credit to mobilize entrepreneurship among farmers.

Realistically, he stressed, the President must tighten expenditures of her own discretionary fund at the Office of the President and the intelligence community fund, and remove the countryside development fund, commonly known as the pork barrel.

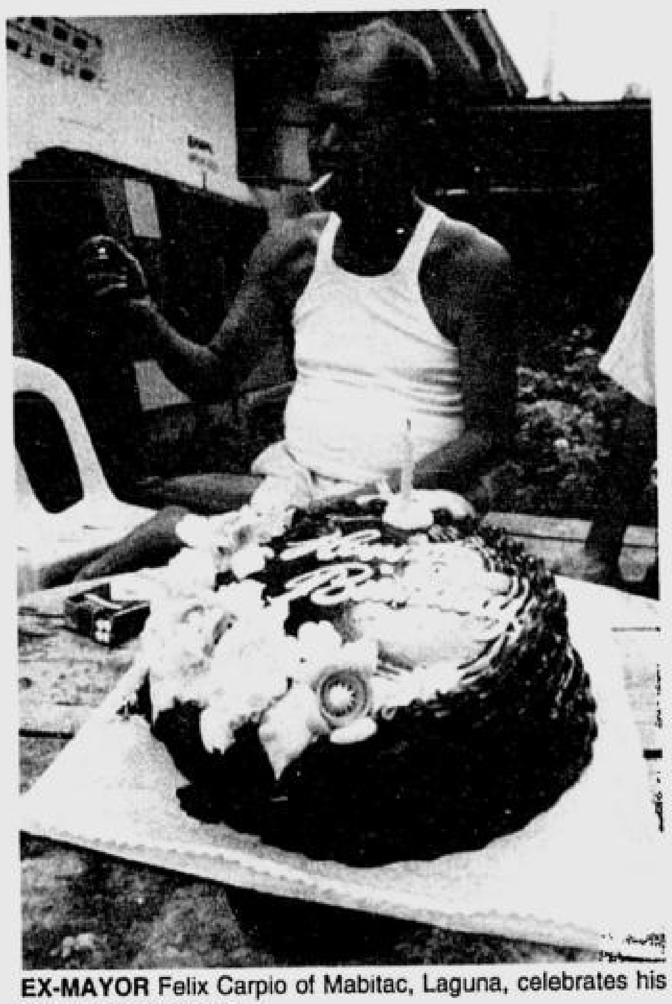
Although the budget deficit is Ms Macapagal's more direct problem, her only recourse outside of borrowing is to delay teachers' salaries and "attack" the internal revenue allotments of local governments, Tujan said.

But Ms. Macapagal's decision to junk the controversial omnibus power industry reform bill in the light of international pressures, suggested that she might address globalization "a little more radically," he said.

A billion-dollar loan for power reforms from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation and the International Monetary Fund is anchored on the bill's passage. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Ex-mayor tagged in murder spends birthday in PNP camp

By Jerry Esplanada



EX-MAYOR Felix Carpio of Mabitac, Laguna, celebrates his birthday behind bars.

FELIX Carpio, mayor of Mabitac town in Laguna for more than 30 years, turned 66 last Saturday.

But "it's one birthday I will never forget," Carpio told the Inquirer.

He spent his natal day with his son, Vice Mayor Judeo Carpio, at Camp Vicente Lim in Laguna, headquarters of the Philippine National Police for Southern Tagalog, where both are temporarily detained.

Police authorities have tagged father and son and one of their aides, Jose Era, as prime suspects in the Dec. 17 killing of SP03 Francisco Garcia of the Mabitac police.

Chief Insp. William Duldulao of the Laguna police has filed murder charges against the Carpios and Jose Era, a retired Mabitac policeman.

"Together at all stage of conspiracy with malice and deliberate intent," the suspects allegedly shot Garcia dead along the national highway in Barangay Nanguma, said Duldulao in the criminal complaint filed with the Mabitac municipal circuit trial court.

A 43-year-old deaf-mute, Serafin Banaag, has pointed to Era and the Carpios as the alleged gunman and masterminds. Banaag is an errand boy of the ex-mayor and his son.

But the Carpios and Era insisted they had nothing to do with the murder.

In a Dec. 29 sworn statement, supposedly made with the help of an interpreter and relative Josefina Hari, Banaag claimed he saw Era shot the policeman six times using a gun belonging to Vice Mayor Carpio.

Banaag also alleged that he was riding in the same car with the former mayor and Era when they chanced upon the victim at the national highway.

"*Itong si Francisco Garcia na nakasakay sa bisikleta na nabundol ng kotse...nang nakasubsob, ay binaril sa ulo at pinagbabaril sa likod,*" Banaag's interpreter was quoted as having told Judge Nicolas Fadul Jr. (Francisco Garcia, who was riding on a bicycle which was bumped by the car...when he was already down, was shot in the head and pumped with bullets in the back.)

Fadul issued the arrest warrants against the three suspects. No bail was recommended for them.

Ex-Mayor Carpio laughed off Banaag's disclosures. "*Hindi kami naniniwala na boluntaryong nagbigay ng ganoong pahayag si Apin* (Banaag's nickname) *sapagkat hindi siya marunong ng sign language. Pinilit siyang magbigay ng salaysay.*"

(We do not believe that Apin voluntarily gave such a statement because he does not know sign language.)

Theft case

A check with the Laguna police disclosed that the slain policeman was investigating a theft case when he was killed. Earlier, Garcia had an argument with the complainants in a criminal case he was handling.

"*Naging* murder *daw ang* homicide case *kaya galit na galit sa kanya ang* complainants" (Murder allegedly became a homicide case so the complainants were very angry at him), said the same sources who added "all angles are being looked into" by the police investigators.

The victim's widow Emiliana claimed her husband was close to the suspects. "*Hindi ko po maisip kung bakit nila ginawa sa asawa ko ito*" (I can't understand why they did this to my husband), she said in an affidavit.

The Carpios blamed Mabitac Mayor Bernardo "Bombet" Sayarot for their troubles.

The older Carpio said they were "set up" by Sayarot whom he called the "script writer, director and producer of this *zarzuela.*"

In a statement, the former Mabitac town head said:"*Kung ang paratang na ito ay hindi totoo ay nakahanda akong managot at para lalong mabilis na malaman natin ang katotohanan ay hinahamon ko na ihabla ako ni Mayor Sayarot sa lalong madaling panahon para malaman ng buong bayan kung sino sa amin ang nagsasabi ng totoo.*"

(If the charge turns out to be false, I am ready to answer, and to get at the truth fast, I challenge Mayor Sarayot so that the whole town would know who between us are telling the truth.)

Sayarot and his men "put words into (Banaag's) mouth. That's what happened."

Sarayot denied the ex-mayor's allegations.

"What I know is the former mayor is desperate to return to power and he'd do anything just to accomplish his goal. *Papatay ang mga 'yan ng tao makabalik lang sa pwesto* (They will kill people just to be able to get back to their posts). They tried to create a scenario, hoping the people will lose trust and confidence in me. Well, their plan backfired. I think it's karma," Sarayot sasid.

He acknowledged that Carpio supported his mayoral bid in 1998. "But shortly afterwards, he told me he wanted me to run the town as administrator. I didn't give in to his wishes."

Not in good terms

Sarayot said he and Vice Mayor Carpio were not in good terms.

But the mayor said he was "not happy that the Carpios are in jail. At this point, we should let justice take its course."

Ex-Mayor Carpio's daughter, Evangeline Carpio-Villanueva, assailed Sayarot for "this cheap political trick."

Villanueva, 48, claimed Sayarot was "afraid to face a Carpio in the coming local elections. He thinks putting both my father and my brother in jail will solve his problem."

The former mayor also deplored some newspapers that reported that Era had named him as the mastermind of the killing.

Era, who voluntarily surrendered to the local police on December 31, laughed off the reports. "It's not true that I pointed to Mayor Carpio as the mastermind. I never made that statement," he remarked.

The Carpios' supporters who visited them last weekend also appealed to the new administration for a speedy investigation of the case and "justice for our Mayor Carpio and Vice Mayor Carpio."

They claimed father and son were "victims" like Garcia, "not suspects." The slain policeman's relatives, however, believe otherwise.

ROUNDUP

Cops nab 2 in shabu bust

CALAPAN CITY—A former policeman and another suspected drug pusher were arrested early Thursday in separate raids here. Police identified the suspects as former police officer Nestor Petillo, 39, of Victoria town; and Lino Hernandez, alias Waray, of Camilmil, this city. Members of the provincial and city police confiscated three grams of shabu from the two. Petillo, who was dismissed from the service for being Awol (absent without official leave), posted bail, while Hernandez, who was arrested last month also on shabu possession, remained in jail. *Joel Jabal, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

2 Mindoro boatmen shot dead

CALAPAN CITY—Boatmen shot dead on Wednesday two of their rivals in a remote village in Naujan, Oriental Mindoro. SPO2 Gilbert Cinco of the Naujan police station identified the fatalities as Romero de la Cruz, 32, and Leonardo Maralit, 19, both of San Andres, Naujan. Cinco said the victims were riding in a wooden banca when they were attacked. Five of their companions survived by jumping into the Aglubang River. *Joel Jabal, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Sandiganbayan acquits official

IBA, Zambales—The Sandiganbayan reversed its own ruling convicting a college official here of graft. Dr. Alejandro Galang, former administrator of Angeles City National Trade School in Angeles City, was acquitted because of insufficient evidence. He was charged with graft for allowing the construction of a school stage without a building permit. *Cesar Villa, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Teacher named university president

BACNOTAN, La Union—Dr. Ernesto Gapasin, an elementary school teacher who rose from the ranks, was installed Thursday as the fourth president of the Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University here. Gapasin, 57, who taught in Cotabato in the 1960s and early 1970s, was the first DMMMSU alumnus to become university president. A native of San Fernando City, Gapasin holds a doctorate in industrial education. *Peter La. Julian, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Cordillera traders meet Japanese

BAGUIO CITY—To foster economic ties between the Philippines and Japan, business leaders from the Cordillera and their counterparts from Japan met in a business consultation seminar here last week. Koji Teramoto, leader of the Japanese delegation, said the seminar aimed to boost exports from the Philippines and direct investments from Japan through improved business relations among entrepreneurs and workers. *PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Sinanduloy wins in Sinulog

TANGUB CITY—The Sinanduloy Cultural Troupe brought honor to Misamis Occidental for winning in last month's Sinulog Festival in Cebu City. The only group in Mindanao which managed to bag the festival's top prize twice, the troupe displayed a creative fusion of the dance movements of Muslims and the indigenous Subanons in Western Mindanao, said city tourism chairperson Jennifer Wee Tan. *Merpu Roa, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

13 minors return to Mindanao

OZAMIZ CITY—Baguio City police and social welfare office personnel escorted back to Mindanao 13 minors who were victimized by illegal recruiters and made to work in a factory there. Jenneth Ormos, Baguio City Social Welfare Officer, said the victims came from Zamboanga del Sur, Sarangani, South Cotabato and Pagadian City. *Merpu Roa, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Pangasinan officials endorse Mendoza

LINGAYEN, Pangasinan—The provincial board and the Pangasinan Mayors' League have endorsed the permanent appointment of Deputy Director General Leandro Mendoza as chief of the Philippine National Police. They said Mendoza exemplifies "the best qualities of an officer and a gentleman." The province had a "favorable peace and order situation" during Mendoza's stint as Pangasinan police director from 1989 to 1990, they said. *Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

BI expects P1B in fees

SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga—The Bureau of Immigration, one of the major revenue-generating government agencies, expects to generate P1 billion from fees this year, newly appointed Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo said. Domingo vowed to instill and develop a "very strong work ethic" among the bureau's personnel. "Our services, activities and transactions will be transparent," she said. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Ilocos Norte board supports GMA

LAOAG CITY—While the Marcoses remained mum over the Edsa People Power II that led to the ouster of their ally, former President Joseph Estrada, the provincial board on Jan. 24 passed two resolutions expressing support for President Macapagal-Arroyo. The board cited the Supreme Court's decision allowing the new president to assume office and her expertise in the field of economics, which could help her administration improve the economy. *Kira Espino, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Group to monitor public officials

DAGUPAN CITY—The newly formed Citizens' Movement for Good Government advised those seeking public office in the May elections to "be good because we'll be watching you." Dr. Vivencio Villaflor Jr., CMGG chair, said recent events had put good government as the central issue in resolving the economic crisis and the people of Pangasinan wanted to achieve a common goal for good government. Fr. Denny Lucas, CMGG secretary general, said the group would monitor the implementation of government programs and the performance of the officials. *Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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INQUIRER*Mindanao*
JUN BANDAYREL, Editor ■ CAROLYN O. ARGUILLAS, Bureau Chief

Hopes high after triple whammy

BY FROILAN GALLARDO
Cagayan de Oro City

FROM one victory party to another, there was renewed optimism. Over bottles of beer and sizzling *sisig*, businessmen talk animatedly of a new dawn in Mindanao, their discussion eventually turning to President Macapagal-Arroyo's renewed call for the resumption of peace talks with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

Many traders are pleased by the new development.

"The peace talks are important. These would go hand in hand with development in Mindanao, and the businessmen are looking forward for its success," Jesus Paras, co-chair of the Regional Development Council in Northern Mindanao, said.

The war between the MILF and the government forced at least half a million people, mostly Moros, to flee their villages and seek shelter in already congested evacuation centers in Central Mindanao.

Other regions of the island, although far from the immediate arena, felt the war's impact on their economy.

In Northern Mindanao, foreign investments, which rose as high as P13.2 billion in 1997, dropped to zero in May last year, at the height of the war, the National Economic and Development Authority noted.

"It was difficult to explain that Cagayan de Oro and Region 10 are far from Central Mindanao. We are part of Mindanao," said Ma. Eliza Pabillore, chief of the Department of Trade and Industry in Cagayan de Oro.

Pabillore said investment inquiries from Muslim countries, like Brunei, Indonesia and Malaysia, also dried up as news of the war spread throughout the world.

Triple whammy

"First, it was the Asian crisis, then the wars between the MILF and Abu Sayyaf, and recently, the political crisis. It was a triple whammy," she said.

In Cagayan de Oro, signs announcing real estate for sale suddenly sprouted all over the city as businessmen tried to get cash from their property to pay for bank loans.

But there were only a few takers.

With the bleak economic scenario ahead, many of the region's business firms went on a retrenchment spree in order to survive.

Companies folded up or ceased operations.

The Cagayan de Oro Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Oro Chamber) said at least 2,000 small firms closed shop in the city last year.

Hotel occupancy rate plummeted to 51 percent last year. Local hoteliers say they needed a 75-percent occupancy rate for their businesses to survive.

With business falling apart, Ma. Teresa Alegrio, Oro Chamber secretary general, said many local traders immigrated to the US and Canada to seek greener pastures.

"A suspension of military operations in Mindanao would certainly be a big help to the regional economy," Alegrio said.

Labor woes

Workers faced the brunt of the economic difficulties in Mindanao last year.

According to the Department of Labor and Employment, unemployment in Northern Mindanao rose to 8.1 percent in July last year compared with 6.1 percent during the same period in 1999.

Underemployment also went up to a double-digit figure of 28 percent in July last year.

The region has a labor force of 1.3 million.

Ma. Lourdes Gayramara, DOLE statistician, said that at least 1,976 workers were retrenched last year. "Firms resorted to downsizing their operations in order to survive last year," she said.

The Allied Labor Unions-Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (ALU-TUCP) in Northern Mindanao painted an even bleaker picture.

Oliver Plaza, ALU-TUCP regional coordinator, said some 4,000 workers would be out of job if Joseph Estrada had not been ousted from the presidency.

He said new school graduates were forced to take up menial jobs as work opportunities became scarce.

"There were engineering graduates applying for jobs as security guards. Even law graduates came to us to apply as labor organizers," Plaza said.

Months or years

Businessmen say that despite the possible resumption of peace talks between the government and the MILF, it would take months or years to rebuild Mindanao's economy.

The Macapagal administration has yet to come up with the means to rehabilitate the economy, Paras said.

Ms Macapagal has yet to appoint Cabinet secretaries in the key areas of environment, agriculture and health.

"It will take time for new policies to filter down the government bureaucracy and to get it functioning again," Paras said. "Right now, we have no choice, but what is important is we have something to look forward to."

Buoyed by new optimism, the businessmen proposed a wide-range of solutions to the Macapagal administration to alleviate economic conditions in Mindanao.

They gave the President a copy of their recommendation on Dec. 18 last year, when she visited Cagayan de Oro. Many of the items were old ones that were shelved by past administrations that chose to pay lip service to the plight of the third largest island in the country.

No more violent image

Alegrio said one of the recommendations was a renewed media campaign to correct Mindanao's image of violence before the international business community.

"A cessation of military operations against the MILF would certainly be a big help to correct that image," Alegrio said.

She said the integrated media campaign should be undertaken by all sectors, including the media, schools, nongovernment organizations and local government units, which have stakes in the future of Mindanao.

The businessmen also would like to see thousands of new small firms blossoming during the Macapagal administration.

Alegrio said the Oro Chamber had asked the President to focus on small and medium enterprises (SMEs), which account for 99 percent of Mindanao's economy.

"An honest-to-goodness program should be able to transform a number of livelihood industries into viable industries that will be competitive in the global markets," the businessmen said.

Alegrio said Arroyo should also ensure technical and development support to the SMEs that would be affected by trade liberalization.

She said banking institutions should start accepting agricultural land as collateral for small enterprises.

Gov't-MILF peace process under way

BY JOWEL F. CANUDAY

GOVERNMENT peace emissary Jesus Dureza holds peace dialogue with child evacuees..
GENE BOYD LUMAWAG

UNDERSECRETARY Jesus Dureza arrived two hours late for his 9 a.m. meeting with emissaries of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front in Cotabato City on Wednesday.

The flight from Davao City was delayed.

But the MILF emissaries—Abu Halil Yahya and Ustadz Omar Pasigan and lawyer Lanang Ali, a member of the disbanded MILF peace panel—waited patiently for Dureza and his "message of peace."

"I am extending the hand of peace," Dureza, President Macapagal-Arroyo's emissary, said as he greeted the three at the office inside the house of Maguindanao Gov. Zacaria Candao.

The MILF emissaries hugged and shook hands with Dureza as friends who had not met for a long time would.

It was the first official meeting between emissaries from the government and the MILF since the peace talks that started under the Ramos administration collapsed last year following an "all-out war" policy imposed by ousted President Joseph Estrada.

Dureza and the MILF emissaries are no strangers to each other. Dureza had met with them and top MILF officials when he was presidential assistant for Mindanao in 1998.

The closed-door meeting on Wednesday lasted only about 30 minutes, but the emissaries exuded hope when they emerged from the room.

"The MILF had sent two of its very venerable leaders in the Central Committee. It's a clear signal that we can already be very optimistic about the peace process in Mindanao," Dureza said.

Symbolic

He clarified that the meeting was not part of the negotiations but it was the Macapagal administration's gesture to "extend symbolically the hand of peace and the message of peace from the President."

The "breakthrough" would, in effect, "set the ball rolling" for the resumption of the peace process, he said.

Ali said Dureza's move set an "atmosphere" indicating that "the peace-making (effort of the government) has very much improved."

"We have just received the message of peace from the President and we welcome it," Ali said.

"(The) peace process may continue in the near future," he added.

During the meeting, both sides set the mechanisms and means on how to "re-start" the peace talks. They, however, declined to disclose details.

"Let's leave it at that. We don't want to complicate our work," Dureza said.

Three years ago, Dureza met with the three MILF emissaries in the course of his work as presidential assistant for Mindanao.

Dureza said Ms Macapagal was "happy" when he informed her by phone about what transpired during the meeting.

"At this point in time, we are not talking about the negotiations yet or what should be discussed but what is important now is how to resume the peace process," Ali said.

"We should be patient and we should not expect dramatic results immediately," Dureza said.

He said the ceasefire proposed by the Department of National Defense would be studied by the government peace panel, which will be reconstituted by Malacañang.

"My role here is to help provide the ambience needed for the immediate resumption of the peace process because this is what President Macapagal-Arroyo really wants to happen," he said.

Cotabato City Mayor Muslimin Sema, secretary general of the Moro National Liberation Front, said three key MILF leaders were in Cotabato City while Dureza was meeting with the MILF emissaries.

"The fact that they are in the city is an indication that the level of confidence (among the MILF leadership) on the peace process is high," Sema said when Dureza made a courtesy call on his office.

Sema did not name the visiting MILF leaders.

Dureza said the MILF's confidence and trust in him was not built overnight but cultivated through years of peace building and by continuing his personal contacts with some members of the MILF peace panel even at the height of the war last year.

'Dear Mrs. President'

But even as the resumption of the peace talks appears certain, uncertainty continues to hound the people most affected by the war—the evacuees.

Some 150 children who met with Dureza when he visited the evacuation center at the Lidasan High School in Parang, Maguindanao, handed him handmade greeting cards addressed to the President.

"Dear Mrs. President, *natatakot kami sa putukan. Ang gusto namin matapos na ang gyera para makabalik na kami*, (We are afraid of gunfire. We want the war to end so we can return to our homes)," Jaina wrote.

"Dear Mrs. Arroyo, *Gusto na namin ang kapayapaan sa* Mindanao (We now want peace in Mindanao)," wrote Normallah Benitez.

But the children were not satisfied with just sending the cards. Assisted by peace advocates from the Kids for Peace, they held a "peace dialogue" with Dureza.

"*Sabihin ninyo kay Presidente Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo na pagsabihan niya ang mga tao sa Mindanao—sana'y matapos na ang gyera para makauwi kami sa aming lugar, para makapag-aral na kami mabuti at saka po para makatrabaho kami,*" *Badria Burjan*," a 9-year old evacuee told Dureza.

(Please tell President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to order the people in Mindanao to stop the war so we can go back to our villages, so we can study better and so we can work.)

Ding Usman, who is in her '30s, and one of the many mothers among the evacuees at the Parang Central Elementary School echoed the children's wishes.

"*Ang hiling po lamang namin ay paalisin nyo na ang mga sundalo sa aming bayan at hiling din namin sa mga MILF na umalis na rin para magkaroon kami ng kapayapaan,*" Usman told Dureza. (We want the pullout of soldiers from our town and for the MILF to also leave so we can have peace.)

She said she and the other evacuees hoped that both the government and the MILF would forge a ceasefire agreement soon so they could return home without fear for their lives.

Kunesa Sekak, regional social welfare director, said that at least 5,171 families were still staying in 12 evacuation centers in Parang town alone.

War costs

Most of the 20,000 families who evacuated to Parang at the height of the war have already gone home, but a number returned as fighting continued in their villages, she said.

Other evacuees could not go back because their houses were destroyed.

Matanog Mayor Nasser Imam said the damaged houses of 678 families in Matanog would have to be repaired at a cost of about P20,000 each. But the local government, already burdened with the problem of feeding the evacuees last year, no longer has funds.

Dureza said he did not have ready answers for the evacuees, but he assured them that these will be discussed with the President and other officials involved in the peace process.

Dureza, however, acknowledged that the data gathered during his daylong visit to Parang and Cotabato City were still "superficial."

He said he would have to gather more information from the field, like the security situation, to determine when the evacuees will be allowed to return home.

He also said the government should evaluate the ongoing rehabilitation efforts to find out other needs.

Starting off under a new administration

TRADEPOINT

Marriz
Manuel
Agbon

BY the time this column comes out, the administration of new President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo would have been more than a week old.

Victory celebrations would have been done. Thanksgiving Masses and ecumenical services would have been offered. A lot of high-fives, handshakes, hugs and backslapping would have been exchanged. Faces of street parliamentarians and citizen-turned-judges continue to be laced with smiles, their heads held up high with the prospects of a brighter tomorrow.

For Mindanao business, People Power II was truly an experience in leadership, a rising to the call of the hour despite the inherent risks involved. In the impromptu coalitions that were blossoming all over Mindanao in the morning of Jan. 17, we saw business and civic leaders bucking the generally passive stance of their sector and stepping forward to lock arms with leaders of the Church, religious groups, NGOs, and cause-oriented and people's organizations in a spontaneous display of outrage and determination.

As the oft-repeated phrase of the hour goes, it was a "defining moment" for individuals and organizations. To quote another phrase of the hour, it was a test of "materiality and relevancy."

The defining moment was a call to courage to cross the borderline between passivity or passive aggression and open action. At the first instance, the crossover was instigated by sheer outrage.

In Cagayan de Oro City, as what happened in other cities in Mindanao and the rest of the country, it took a simple text message to gather people at Plaza Divisoria minutes after the infamous 11-10 Senate vote over Envelope No. 2 on that fateful night of Jan. 16.

Outrage led to a deep resolve for an immediate end to the sham, thus drawing a crowd that filled Divisoria for the next four days. But really, the basic motive was a desire to protect the welfare of one's family, a concern for a brighter tomorrow, and a fervent wish to leave a legacy of a better Philippines, a better Mindanao, a better world for the succeeding generation.

And so, it became a test of "materiality and relevancy" for business organizations whose membership began questioning the lack of more concrete action beyond expressions of concern, and, in some instances, a deafening silence on the part of the so-called leadership.

Individuals and organizations that rose to the challenge of that "defining moment" will find themselves carrying the badge of "relevancy" in the months to come.

And so, after the Gloria euphoria, the task of rebuilding our nation and rebuilding Mindanao is upon us.

For Mindanao business, our immediate concern would have to be to ensure adequate representation of Mindanaoans in the Macapagal Cabinet and other key government positions that would augur well for the island's development.

This would have to be done within the framework of a systematic and transparent process in the selection of competent individuals.

Secondly, with the May 14 elections coming, we must draw attention to the great importance of appointing qualified and impartial commissioners to fill the vacancies in the Commission on Elections.

One lesson we have drawn from the past two years is that bad politics leads to bad economics. In the coming elections, the people will be bringing into office some 17,000 public servants, from senators all the way to city and municipal councilors. This means that the business community and civil society must point out the criteria of good governance in the selection of candidates.

As one homemaker-turned-street parliamentarian put it: "I wish we can have a regular multisectoral dialogue and a citizens' watch for good governance. Life is short. It is time to make a positive difference somewhere, somehow."

People Power II is indeed our second chance at institutionalizing the needed reforms in Philippine society. The May 14 elections present itself as an avenue to jumpstart these reforms by putting in well-meaning and good-hearted people in government, people who will lead us to the much-needed regime of political and economic governance, characterized by transparency, competence, accountability and honesty.

The Mindanao business community and civil society should launch an information, education and communications campaign that clearly fleshes out the competence and qualifications of those to be elected into office.

In a more sustained manner, there is a need for an education campaign on values.

Years back, there was such an initiative at promoting a "national culture of excellence," which entailed revisiting basic social values and business ethics. Every quarter, a human virtue was extolled and for each month during the quarter, concrete steps were discussed in order to achieve such virtue.

Third, there is a need for an immediate rationalization in the administration of government projects and programs for the economic recovery of Mindanao. One such move would be the reunification of the Office of the President in Mindanao under one baton, to include supervision and orchestration of programs and projects of the various development agencies toward one vision, under one tune.

Fourth, there is a need to pump-prime the economy of Mindanao public investment. The Mindanao Development Framework Plan prescribes an infusion of at least P14 billion.

Pump-priming should focus on support infrastructure facilities for increasing agricultural and agro-industrial production, and the promotion of competitive small- and medium-scale enterprises. Such effort must target the marginalized sectors of Mindanao.

Increasing incomes leads to increase in purchases of goods and services. Increased consumer spending induces investment, leading to increased employment and thus, the cycle of sustained economic development.

Fifth, we in Mindanao business must actively engage in restoring confidence in the Mindanao economy. In concrete terms, this means aggressively promoting our businesses and taking the lead in business expansion. This would definitely send strong signals to the rest of the Philippine, regional and international business communities that Mindanao is back in business.

So great was the challenge to stand up for truth and decency, but greater is the challenge to roll up our sleeves and join in the restoration of our society on the principles of fairness and equity for all.

Marriz Manuel B. Agbon is the president of the Financial Executives Institute of Cagayan de Oro Inc. and a convenor of the Kongreso ng Mamamayang Pilipino II-Northern Mindanao and the Citizens for Good Governance in Cagayan de Oro. He is also the chair if the National Citizens Movement for Free Elections in Misamis Oriental.

Romulo targets Lucio, Danding for revenues

(From page A1)

court's decision and allow it to reinstate the case.

Pursue through courts

Romulo believes efficient tax collection is the key to reducing the budget deficit and that borrowing should be a last resort.

"I think we have to expand our tax base. There are so many taxes that have not been collected," he said in an interview.

He said he was not planning to impose new taxes, and would instead focus on the collection of existing taxes.

"If there are debts (owed) to the government, they should be paid. We would pursue them through the courts and see that these taxes are collected," he said.

He added: "We will show through governance that there is a-level playing field and a rule of law."

The national budget deficit ballooned to P136.11 billion in 2000, more than double the original target. In 1999, the government incurred a deficit of P113 billion.

"Everybody should pay taxes. There should not be a privileged few," Romulo stressed.

Old foes

Romulo has squared off with Tan, the country's wealthiest tycoon, on many occasions.

He spoke out against Tan for using his close ties to Estrada to influence the country's air transportation policies.

In a dispute involving IASS Co. Ltd. of Japan and the Philippine government, Romulo blamed Tan for the state of disarray of the Estrada administration's aviation policies.

IASS threatened to file a protest with the Japanese government over the unfair treatment it received from Philippine aviation authorities.

It accused the Civil Aeronautics Board and the Air Transportation Office of sitting on its application for flying permits reportedly on orders of Tan, majority owner of Philippine Airlines.

The company accused Tan of being the "root cause" of the problems of the Philippine airline industry.

Romulo took IASS' side on the issue.

"This is one of the main problems—the public perception that President Estrada's administration is a government of cronies. And Lucio Tan is perceived as one," he said in one interview.

Elusive target

Another Estrada crony in Romulo's sights is San Miguel Corp. chair Cojuangco, who may prove to be a more elusive target than Tan.

Romulo said the government was considering dumping Cojuangco.

"If you want (San Miguel) to be managed well, then you have to get the best management, and it doesn't mean you have to hire him," Romulo told reporters. "There might be people better than him."

Booting Cojuangco out of San Miguel, however, won't be easy.

Cojuangco, the 65-year-old head of Estrada's Partido ng Masang Pilipino, has been credited with turning San Miguel into a lean, mean profit-making machine, and his removal in a boardroom shake-up could dampen investor sentiment, analysts say.

"Investor sentiment will be negatively affected and company share prices may under-perform," said Raymond Franco, an assistant manager of research at Abacus Securities Corp.

Legal group

The Macapagal administration has set up a legal group to study all issues relating to San Miguel, including the possibility of the state taking away Cojuangco's voting rights in the company, Romulo said.

The government is reclaiming a disputed 27-percent stake in San Miguel, the country's No. 1 food and beverage firm, to help reduce the deficit.

San Miguel's "A" shares—those reserved for Filipino investors—are currently worth around P115 billion at Friday's closing price of P50 each. The government is reclaiming over P38 billion worth of these shares.

Romulo has asked Ms Macapagal to suspend the implementation of a compromise deal between the Estrada administration and coconut farmers on sequestered San Miguel shares.

'Immoral, illegal'

"I believe that such an agreement is immoral, not to speak of its being illegal," he said.

Last week, Ms Macapagal followed his advice, suspending an Estrada executive order that would have paved the way for the government to sell the block to finance a coconut industry development fund.

The Supreme Court has passed on to the anti-graft court the responsibility for determining

ROMULO/ A16

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Erap's final hours told

(From page A1)

that carried me through those final days, those final hours, and gave me the opportunity to witness history unfolding.

At nine in the morning of Thursday, Jan. 18, I received the officers and board members of the Federation of Filipino Chinese Chambers of Commerce in my office at Mabini Hall, headed by their president emeritus, Jimmy Tang. We discussed how the federation could assist in employment creation especially in the countryside.

Briefing on NDF, MILF

Immediately after, Gen. Edgardo Batenga and Gen. Victor Mayo, deputy national security adviser, gave me a briefing on the MILF negotiations. A week ago, the President gave me the go ahead to resume negotiations with both the National Democratic Front and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front. The NDF had given a positive response and I had the initial batch of political prisoners processed for release.

I was invited by Senate President Aquilino "Nene" Pimentel to go to the Senate and attend a lunch testimonial for two policemen who had died trying to defuse the Dec. 30 bomb in Makati.

Early that morning, I had received requests for interviews from the New York Times, Time Magazine and Newsweek. The foreign press must smell something, I thought.

At around 7 p.m. of Jan. 18, Finance Secretary Jose "Titoy" Pardo asked me to join him in asking his five undersecretaries to hold back their resignation for a few days. I explained to them that although we understood their feelings, it would not be an opportune time to resign. Believing Titoy and I had persuaded them to defer their resignation, I left and went to Malacañang.

At around 8 p.m., the President was talking to his defense lawyers. He was consulting them on the opening of the second envelope.

The President had seen the reaction of the people to the suppression of the second envelope. Feeling he had nothing to hide, President Estrada asked his lawyers to request that the second envelope be opened, despite the fact that he had already won the legal battle over that technical issue.

Meeting with senators

By 8 a.m. of Jan. 19, along with Press Secretary Dong Puno, I met at the New World Hotel Senators Juan Ponce Enrile and Gringo Honasan, and the President's defense lawyer, Estelito Mendoza, to sound them out on the proposal to open the second envelope.

"If that is the President's decision," said the senators, "we cannot do anything."

Critical

Sensing the situation was becoming critical, I called Macel Fernandez from the hotel and asked her to draft an Executive Order creating an ad hoc committee to monitor and manage the fast-swelling crowds in order to safeguard human rights and prevent violence.

At 10:22 a.m., I arrived at the Presidential Residence.

Secretary Robert Aventajado, Lito Banayo and Dong Puno were already there, some were having breakfast. Orly Mercado was wearing black. He was seated beside Macel. DILG Secretary Alfredo Lim was also there.

The President's legal team, Estelito Mendoza, Andres Narvasa, Raul Daza and Cleofe Verzola, arrived soon after I did. Together with the President, Lito Banayo, Dong, Orly, Fred Lim and I went inside the small conference room of the residence to discuss two important points—the opening of the second envelope and the ad hoc committee to handle the demonstrations.

A consensus was arrived at that the President would issue a public statement calling for the opening of the second envelope.

The President also quickly agreed to constitute the ad hoc committee, with the executive secretary sitting as chair and the secretary of interior and local government as vice chair. Members would include the secretaries of justice, national defense, finance, the press secretary, the director general of the PNP and the chief of staff of the Armed Force of the Philippines.

I had the committee members called earlier for our first meeting. All of them were present, except the AFP chief of staff, Gen. Angelo Reyes, and Secretary Pardo.

The Nica, Isafp, PNP Intelligence Group and NBI head also came as support staff to the ad hoc committee.

Discussions on the state of security followed. "The military is '100% secure," reassured Orly. I did not know that moments earlier, he had told Macel that government had to act fast, because in the next few days the military would move. I also did not know that Orly's vehicle that day contained at least 20 high-powered firearms.

The committee meeting did not go ahead despite the presence of a majority of its members, because events were moving so fast.

At 1 p.m., Orly left the palace. He said he was just going to the office.

After that, events happened quickly:

1:20 p.m.—The President calls me into his small office at the Presidential Residence (PR), and says in a somber tone, "*Ed, seryoso na ito. Kumalas na si Angelo (Reyes)* (Ed, this is serious. Angelo has defected)." General Calimlim is beside him. On the couch sits Ping Lacson, talking on his cell phone.

The President could not understand why Reyes would defect, after he had consistently improved the soldiers' pay and welfare benefits. And he could not understand why Reyes, whose appointment had been extended by the President until 2002 just a few days earlier, would abandon him at the time he was most needed.

2:00 p.m.—The President prepares to tape the previously prepared statement regarding the second envelope.

While the President is dressing up for his taping, Sen. Raul Roco calls me on the cellular phone. "Partner," he says, "it's time to take a decision. Perhaps you should convince the President to resign."

While I am talking to Roco, Secretary Alfredo Lim is hovering around me and asking, "Who are you talking to?" "Raul Roco," I answer. Lim immediately says, "*Aalis na muna ako. Immobilize ko lang si Maganto* (I have to leave. I will immobilize Maganto)," said Lim. "*Hintayin mo na muna si Presidente, nagbibihis lang.*" I told Fred. He answered, "*Hindi na, mauna na ako.*"

Angara tells him to wait for the President who was dressing up. But Lim said he had to go.

Chief Supt. Romeo Maganto, head of a task force at the interior department, reportedly allowed the protesters in Mendiola to get closer to the Palace gates.

2:30 p.m.—Secretary Lim leaves the Palace.

The President, in a last minute effort to diffuse the situation and hold back the demonstrators, decided to hold snap elections, and that he would not himself run in that elections.

I asked Senator Roco what he thought of the snap elections. Roco answered that snap elections might be very difficult considering there is no vacancy in the vice presidency.

2:45 p.m.—I invited Senate President Pimentel and Speaker Noli Fuentebella to come to Malacañang to ask for their opinion on the snap elections. They arrived at the PR and met with the President and myself. "There would be technical difficulties on the snap elections," Nene, said, "since the position of Vice President is not vacant." Noli did not volunteer any comments. Nonetheless they asked the President to send them a written request.

3:00 p.m.—General Reyes announces his defection. I see on television that General Reyes is accompanied by Orly Mercado, wearing black. Orly had been one of the most trusted and favored Cabinet members of Estrada, and was president of Estrada's Partido ng Masang Pilipino.

Considering that the President's options at the time are limited to snap elections and fighting it out, I pull aside Nene Pimentel and ask him if he could advise the President not to exclude other options. "A dignified exit or resignation might be the best way for him," I said. The President listens intently to Pimentel, who volunteers to put the idea to Cory Aquino and get a feedback.

3:20 p.m.—I am informed that a tank has been placed in front of the residence of General Calimlim, with the turret aimed at the house.

3:45 p.m.—I see on television that General Calimlim has joined General Reyes in withdrawing support for the President. He had been in the PR just hours before.

It was now more crucial than ever that the PNP remain loyal to the presidency. Ping Lacson immediately said he would check with the PNP directors who were waiting in his office.

4:00 p.m.—Ping Lacson leaves the Presidential Residence.

5:30 p.m.—The President tapes a statement at the main conference room of the Palace calling for snap elections, and stating categorically that he would not run. Friends and supporters rallied around him in support.

Ping Lacson called me to say that the PNP had decided to withdraw support for the President. He asked to talk to the President but I said the President was taping a message in the main conference room. I promised Ping that I would call him back as soon as the President was free. I then crossed over from the residence to the Palace and waited for the President to finish taping to relay to him Ping's message.

I have Ping called and the President and he talk over the phone.

6:00 p.m.—Ping Lacson announced on television that the PNP was withdrawing its support to the President. Ping said it was the most difficult decision of his life.

8:00 p.m.—I leave briefly to meet with several senators at my apartment to update them on the developments.

I arrive at the same time as Tessie Aquino-Oreta. Sen. Johnny Ponce Enrile arrives soon after.

9:00 p.m.—Before other senators arrive and as I start briefing Tessie and Johnny on the developments, I receive a call from Nene Pimentel asking me to join him in the Palace to meet the President. I immediately rush back to Malacañang. The senators met without me, with Senators John Osmeña, Tito Sotto and Gringo Honasan arriving after I had left.

9:30 p.m.—I arrived in the Presidential Residence to meet Nene and the President. Nene is already there with the President inside the latter's small office. They are joined by JV Ejercito.

The President, Nene, JV and I meet in the President's office. Nene repeats to the President the need to make a graceful and dignified exit, saying that he would be allowed to go abroad with enough funds to support him and his family. The President said he would never leave the country. The President also reiterates his desire that the second envelope be opened. A letter is immediately drafted, where the President asks the Senate sitting as an impeachment court to open the second envelope.

Later, an aide says Cardinal Vidal has arrived and the three of us join the Cardinal in the main sala.

10:00 p.m.—After the meeting, the President tells me, "Ed, Angie (Reyes) guaranteed that I would have five days to a week in the Palace."

(Tomorrow: Negotiations with Macapagal men begin)

'Honor is inseparable from chastity'

(From page A1)

rable (from) chastity, honesty and integrity" and is the "measure by which others assess one's possession of the cardinal quality of virtue."

Penned 35 years ago at sea, this letter was sent through embassy couriers to "Miss Maria Gloria Macapagal" who was enrolled at the time at Georgetown University in Washington DC.

The late president, in an easy script, acknowledged a "vital milestone in your (Gloria's) lifetime."

He wrote: "The years have been swiftly devoured beyond retrieve (sic) by the insatiable vulture of eternity called time. Every single tick of a second . . . that has passed is unrecoverably gone leaving for each creature a trace of how it was spent that together in varying proportion constitute the sum of human life (sic) . . .

"It is to try to help you to be prepared for such reality that out of my love for you as well as the love of your mother for you, I have on your eighteenth birthday written these lines in my own hand to set down what the experience of the lengthening years has suggested as the source of human happiness and the meaning of life."

These seemed to be more than words of fatherly advice, and the late president seemed to have his eye on posterity when he talked about justice, socioeconomic equity and the virtues of a public servant, and when he signed the letter, "your loving father, Diosdado Macapagal."

Exquisite joy

Macapagal praised Gloria, whom he described as "an exquisite human joy" when she was born at St. Luke's Hospital.

Through the years and in his eyes, Gloria had "flowered into a poised, lovely, virtuous, highly intelligent and accomplished woman."

He also complimented her on her academic work at Georgetown, with a gentle reminder that she was "receiving the best available education there is anywhere."

While acknowledging the privileged life Gloria grew up in, her father alluded to his humble beginnings and told her that life was a "composite of happiness and unhappiness for which you should always be prepared."

HER father's "exquisite joy," a budding Gloria Macapagal beams confidently beside her parents, then First Couple Evangelina and Disodado Macapagal, at the Kahala Hilton in Honolulu nearly four decades ago.

The late president also spoke of hopes for his children by his first marriage, Arthur and Chelo, and for Gloria and Diosdado Jr., his children by his second wife, physician Evangelina Macaraeg.

A harmonious family life was what Macapagal wished for all his children. He wanted them to love and help each other for "in times of anxiety, aside from one's own immediate family, no one can be counted upon better for moral sustenance and assistance than brothers and sisters with whom a deep sense of fraternal attachment has been nurtured."

Loving husband

He praised Evangelina for her frugality during their "years of struggle," her thrift in handling the "people's money," and the way she watched over his health.

Macapagal talked considerably about his wife's preparedness to take up the role of First Lady. He lauded her for transforming a "disheveled presidential residence into an elegant palace worthy of our noble people" and cited her efforts to beautify Luneta, the Heroes' Cemetery and "other cherished public places."

As a father, Macapagal stressed honesty, integrity and justice as sources of happiness, emphasizing that "honesty and integrity have become the (escutcheon) of our family."

As a public servant, he expressed gratitude for his position, which he believed he attained through "a feat of Divine Providence" since he rose "from obscurity and poverty to the presidency without reneging on the primacy of honesty and integrity as the norm of my actions."

He told Gloria she was fortunate to have "bloomed into adolescence at a time (when) your mother and I (have) attained the acme of our careers as First Lady and Head of State respectively."

Missive

The first letter—on Gloria's love life—was dated June 5, 1964 and seems to have been written hurriedly, in response to a column, which Gloria wrote in the Herald.

Gloria, then 17, had written that she missed her "crush," Miguel Arroyo, who later became her husband and father of her three children, Mikey, Deodato and Luli.

After reading Gloria's piece, Macapagal felt compelled to write a "missive" to his "dear daughter," reminding her to keep her "ultimate feelings" to herself.

At the same time, he told her proudly: "You have the makings of a writer."

Surprisingly, the warm and romantic Macapagal advised Gloria that "a writer generally writes of matters of general concern and not (about) his own intimate self."

Again, the theme of happiness swirled all over the pages, as Macapagal, apparently distressed over Gloria's use of the word "missed," attempted to guide her.

"In eight or nine out of ten (cases), the initial 'crash' (sic) of a young girl or boy is not likely the one (with) whom she or he will spend a lifelong idyll of happiness," he advised her.

Macapagal had no idea his daughter belonged to the minority. ***Christine Godinez-Ortega, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Romulo targets . . .

(From page A15)

whether the 27-percent block is publicly or privately owned.

The anti-graft court has yet to issue a decision.

A separate case is pending in courts regarding the ownership of a 20-percent block of shares in San Miguel. Cojuangco claims to own the shares.

Cojuangco, a close ally of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, has been allowed by the courts to exercise voting rights on the shares.

Survivor

Cojuangco is a survivor of many battles for control of San Miguel. His previous stint as company chair was cut short by the 1986 revolt that toppled his benefactor, the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

When Marcos fled the country, his successor, Corazon Aquino, seized Cojuangco's 47-percent stake in San Miguel for the government and handed control of the firm over to its founder's grandson, Andres Soriano III.

Cojuangco was accused of buying his stake using money from banks that harbored funds from a special tax imposed by Marcos on coconut farmers.

The levy was collected from farmers between 1973 and 1982 through a series of decrees issued by then President Marcos. Totaling P9.6 billion at that time, the levy fund has grown to about P100 billion.

When Estrada entered office in 1998, Cojuangco was reinstated company chair and immediately went on a campaign to redeem his reputation.

This gave rise to suspicions that the mercurial San Miguel top honcho was backed by Estrada, whom he supported in the 1998 presidential polls.

Crown jewel

In addition to the 47-percent sequestered shares, the government holds 12 percent of San Miguel shares through two state institutions.

"This share ownership issue has been hanging like the sword of Damocles over the company for the last 15 years and it is about time this is resolved," said Gonzalo Bongolan, research head of PCCI Securities Brokers Corp.

He said Cojuangco might resist, through the investing public, attempts by the government to take away the "crown jewel" of his empire.

"It is going to be an exciting battle," Bongolan said.

Analyst Franco said Cojuangco lacked the financial capacity to buy up additional stakes in the company and take on the government, "but he may put up a fight through proxies—minority shareholders and ordinary investors."

Analysts said Cojuangco was credited for boosting San Miguel's profits and expanding its cash reserves.

Mountain of cash

The company is reputedly among the top 20 in Asia in terms of fat profits, highest return on assets and highest growth in profits.

It also sits on a mountain of cash—$1 billion—accumulated through a series of large divestments by Cojuangco.

Analysts forecast that despite a difficult year, San Miguel's net profit in 2000 will reach P7 billion, compared to P6.02 billion in 1999.

"Even though Mr. Cojuangco is a close friend of former President Estrada, he has been able to run the company very well. This is a generally accepted observation in the market," Franco said.

"Unless the government appoints or assigns voting rights to someone as astute in running the business as him, I think the sentiment for the stock will be altered negatively," he added.

Prosecutors warn DOJ on deal with Erap buddies

(From page A1)

tify against Estrada.

Arroyo told the INQUIRER yesterday in a phone interview that the private lawyers—who assisted him and the other House prosecutors at Estrada's impeachment trial—were not in total agreement with using the cronies to prove corruption charges against the disgraced leader.

He cited their fears that the cronies might be as liable as Estrada and might ask for concessions in exchange for their testimony.

In a press forum yesterday at the Sulo Hotel in Quezon City, Arroyo said that the prosecution panel already had the evidence to pin down Estrada, and that Jimenez was a "superfluous" witness.

But if Jimenez did testify on his dealings with Estrada, Arroyo said, he should not be selective in spilling the beans.

"He should first say how much commission he got, and if he is willing to give it back. It will be unfair if he just names the other people who received money," Arroyo said.

If he does testify, Jimenez is expected to disclose information on Estrada's alleged ownership of the scandal-ridden BW Resources Corp., the First Pacific Inc.'s P30-billion takeover of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., and the P32-billion merger of Equitable Bank and PCI Bank.

'Crucial' testimony

Jimenez is wanted by the US government for alleged tax evasion, mail fraud and illegal contributions to the Democratic Party.

Ms Macapagal said the US government understood the Philippine government's decision to delay Jimenez's extradition.

She said there would be a delay because Perez was still determining the importance of Jimenez's testimony in the plunder cases that would be filed against her ousted predecessor.

"And I understand that it (Jimenez's testimony) is quite crucial," Ms Macapagal said at a news conference held yesterday at the Mactan Benito Ebuen Air Base prior to her departure for Manila.

"That's the reason the US is respecting the timetable of the Philippine government," she said. "We just have to make a choice (as to) who's the bigger fish as far as we are concerned."

Asked about Jimenez's earlier confession of his "sins" to Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin, the President said: "That is his right as a Filipino and as a Christian."

She also said it would be up to Perez to determine if Estrada's cronies would get immunity from charges in exchange for their testimony.

"That's a matter for (Perez) to determine—if somebody's testimony will be important to the conviction of the principal, whether that person is not the most guilty," she said.

By way of explaining why she was leaving it to Perez to assess the importance of Jimenez's testimony, the President said: "My style of governance has always been to choose good people and let them do their work. I do not micromanage.

"And I think that people like (Finance) Secretary (Alberto) Romulo and Secretary Perez have been doing their work tremendously. So I trust their assessment."

Subpoena *duces tecum*

Arroyo told the INQUIRER that the private lawyers indicated their stand against the use of the cronies' testimony when the House prosecutors at the impeachment trial formally turned over their evidence against Estrada last week.

"During the turnover, the sentiment was that the private prosecutors worked hard just to collect evidence to nail down Estrada, and that if there is need for additional evidence, they can apply for a subpoena *duces tecum* through regular courts like the Sandiganbayan," he said.

He noted that the application for a subpoena *duces tecum* in a criminal case would be "easier than when done in an impeachment court."

Thus, he said, "there is no need at all for a compromise with the cronies who will ask for concessions before they testify."

"The fact that the private lawyers will meet with Secretary Perez might be an indication that they want their position known. Since the secretary also said he has evidence that the private prosecutors do not know (of), the meeting might be a good forum to harmonize (their positions)," Arroyo said.

He added: "Personally, I share the view of the prosecutors, especially since the witnesses we presented during the trial—like Clarissa Ocampo—braved a lot of danger.

"If we lost our case then, there was the big possibility that (Estrada) would have gone after them."

Ocampo, senior vice president of Equitable-PCI Bank where Estrada allegedly keeps multimillion-peso bank accounts, told the impeachment court last Dec. 22 that she was seated a foot away from the then president when he signed his name as "Jose Velarde" upon opening one of the alleged accounts.

"Now comes Mark Jimenez volunteering to testify. At that time, these cronies were just sitting pretty. It's easy to be brave now because there is no crisis situation and (Estrada) is not the president anymore," Arroyo said.

Special treatment

At the press forum, Arroyo said giving Jimenez "special treatment" for his turnaround would be unfair to the witnesses who testified at the impeachment trial.

Isabela Rep. Heherson Alvarez said the government should not bargain with Jimenez as this could hurt relations between the Philippines and the United States.

"The (charges against Jimenez) are federal offenses in the US that could land him in jail for 15 years. Not that we don't like his testimony, but are we prepared to face the effects (that a bargain could have) on our national interests?" Alvarez said.

Alvarez echoed the view that the information Jimenez was offering was nothing new: "There's nothing to bargain (for). His information is obtainable."

The lawmaker also said Jimenez might have turned against Estrada because of personal interest.

According to Alvarez, Jimenez can plead guilty to the charges against him and have his prison sentence cut by half. Upon his release, he can return to the Philippines, Alvarez said.

Negros Occidental Rep. Apolinario Lozada called on the government to ensure Jimenez's safety.

"We would not want (him) to suffer the fate of publicist Bubby Dacer who remains missing, along with his driver," Lozada said in a statement.

7 cases

Earlier, lawyers and anti-crime groups filed seven criminal cases against Estrada at the Office of the Ombudsman.

The charges range from graft to plunder, a heinous crime punishable by death if the amount involved exceeds P50 million.

Perez announced last week that the Department of Justice planned to file three more plunder cases and to try to recover the mansions, bank deposits and other assets that Estrada was supposedly enjoying from these illegal acts.

But Arroyo said yesterday that some people in the administration were "agitating" more for the retrieval of Estrada's alleged ill-gotten wealth than for his conviction.

"We should focus on the fact that Estrada violated so many of our laws, from the anti-graft provisions to our banking laws," he said.

Arroyo said People Power II would be "a waste" if justice did not catch up with Estrada.

He said the Office of the Ombudsman should make sure that the cases against Estrada were airtight because the public wanted justice done.

Alvarez said that because the charges against Estrada were non-bailable, the former president would be jailed when the Office of the Ombudsman completed its preliminary investigation and filed the cases before the Sandiganbayan.

"We've never had this experience before. The administration will have to figure out how to deal with him," Alvarez said, adding that due process should be observed.

Teener gets Pro-Am wish

PEBBLE BEACH, California—Pebble Beach is a wish come true for 17-year-old golfer Ryan Ring. Ring, the youngest player in the Pebble Beach National Pro-Am, has been fighting leukemia for about 3 1/2 years. "I'm having a great time," he said, despite shooting a disappointing 80 in Friday's second round. "I just wish I was playing better." *AP*

Sunday SPORTS

Al S. Mendoza, Editor ■ **Edwin M. Villanueva**, Assistant Editor

Dragila rips own world record

NEW YORK—Stacey Dragila, the Olympic champion in the women's pole vault, smashed her world indoor record, clearing 15 feet, 2\ inches (4.63 meters) in the Millrose Games. In her second try at the record height on Friday night, Dragila smashed the mark of 15-1 (4.62 meters) that she set in the USA Championships in Atlanta on March 3. *AP*

MRT-SOUTHWOODS OPEN

Sinfuego seizes control

By Jong Arcano

SHORT in length but long in fighting spirit, Richard Sinfuego showed Rey Pagunsan and Cassius Casas that golf is not all about power yesterday.

Sinfuego just let his ball-bashing playing partners do their thing but attacked the flags with pinpont accuracy, shooting a third consecutive five-under-par 67 to seize control by two strokes after three rounds of the P700,000 MRT-Southwoods Open golf championship.

Three long-range birdies from 24 feet on the last six holes made it all happen for Sinfuego whose 15-under-par 201 aggregate for 54 holes at the Masters course of the Manila Southwoods Golf and Country Club is believed to be one of the lowest in recent memory.

It will be a grand showdown between two former amateur hotshots still eying their first professional crown in today's final round where only Rick Gibson—the Canadian ace now a permanent resident—looms as the only possible threat to their breakthrough bid.

Pagunsan, failing to translate his booming drives into the much-needed birdies, shot a 70 to finally relinquish he had held for the first two days with a 203 total in this opening leg of the new professional tour presented by College Assurance Plan and backed by MRT, Camp John Hay and the Fil-Estate Group of Companies.

Gibson was seven strokes off at 208 after a 69 but his experience can hardly be ignored in a pressure-packed round that should put the two young turks of local golf into the toughest battles of their careers.

Sadly, tournament-favorite Cassius Casas will not be there to make things more interesting.

Casas looked mentally and emotionally drained as he strayed his shots all day, taking himself out of the title picture with a bogey and double bogey on the second and third holes for a 77 that pulled him from a second-place tie at the start of the day into joint fifth with Ruben Sasutil (69) at 211. They trailed Tony Lascuna (73-210) by one.

"I just wanted to see how I'll fare against the two big-hitters. I think I proved something to myself today," said Sinfuego in Tagalog.

Giving up at least 30 yards in length to Pagunsan, Sinfuego used his steady iron play to recover the glaring mismatch off the tee. He racked up five birdies on the first 14 holes after missing only on green before making his first and only bogey for the day on the par-5 15th hole.

The 29-year-old from Sta. Barbara, Iloilo then drained another 24-footer for birdie on the par-4 16th that pushed him three up but Pagunsan got a stroke back when he made an easy birdie on the 17th off a superb 8-iron tee-shot.

Gibson, who won back-to-back National PGA titles at Canlubang in 1991-92, said he's glad to have made it to the final threesome.

"The good thing about it is that you'll know if someone blows a tire and you know how you stand," said Gibson.

ROGER MARGALLO

SINFUEGO

Standing after 54-holes:

201—Sinfuego R. 67-67-67
203—Pagunsan R. 64-69-70
208—Gibson R. 71-68-69
210—Lascuna T. 68-69-73
211—Casas F. 68-66-77, Sasutil R. 70-72-69
212—Pactolerin R. 70-71-71
214—Antonio R. 73-69-72, Delos Santos D. 69-76-69
215—Ababa C. 68-75-72, Cruz D. 72-72-71, Santia V. 73-74-68
216—Ababa E. 70-71-75
219—Salvador E. 76-69-74
220—Cruz A. 74-73-73
221—Minoza P. 70-70-71, Cabajar R. 70-75-76, Sanchez E. 71-78-72

Gogel ahead; Tiger 8 down

PEBBLE BEACH, California—Matt Gogel, a victim in Tiger Woods' spectacular comeback victory here last year, took a big step toward putting a bad memory behind him Friday in the Pebble Beach National Pro-Am.

Gogel had a career-best round of 10-under 62 to tie the course record at Poppy Hills and take a three-stroke lead over Vijay Singh.

"I was anxious to come back because I love this place," Gogel said. "It wasn't like I was coming back for unfinished business."

With birdies on the last three holes, the 29-year old from Kansas finished at 131 and managed to separate himself from the pack after two pristine days on the Monterey Peninsula.

The pack did not include Woods.

Despite playing the same course as Gogel and Singh _ and the easiest of three in the rotation _ Woods bungled the first two par 5s and finished over par for the second time in his last five rounds.

A two-putt birdie gave him a 73 and left him eight strokes behind, the same 36-hole margin he faced last year.

"My swing was never in sync," Woods said.

Singh, who wound up tied with Gogel two strokes behind Woods last year, also played Poppy and had a 68 to get to 134.

The group at 135 included Kemper Open champion Tom Scherrer and Frank Lickliter.

Phil Mickelson, who won Pebble Beach in 1998 when the final round was pushed back seven months to August, had a 66 at Spyglass Hill and was at 8-under 136.

Gogel appeared to be cruising to his first career victory last year, a comfortable margin over Singh and Woods a mere afterthought. *AP*

Senen scores ace in Mango Tee tilt

AFTER helping his team get into title contention, bank executive Senen Magtoto won himself a Mitsubishi Lancer GLS when he scored the first hole-in-one yesterday of the Mango Tee Invitational golf tournament at the Alabang Country Club.

Matoto, senior VP of BPI, aced the tough eighth hole of Alabang with an Orlimar 4-wood for the manual transmission car worth more than half a million pesos.

"It's been a dream and I finally got it," exclaimed Matoto while flightmates whooped it up with him on the green.

Matoto and his partner, national team standout Cookie LaO, posted 75 points in their first round to trail Francisco Josef and Enrique Gana by three in Class C.

3 teams eye No. 2; Gins win

PBA STANDINGS	W	L
Alaska	1	0
Purefoods	1	0
SMB	1	0
Shell	1	0
Pop Cola	1	0
Ginebra	1	1
Sta. Lucia	0	1
Mobiline	0	1
Red Bull	0	1
Tanduay	0	2

GAMES TODAY (Araneta Coliseum)
4:15 p.m.—San Miguel vs Sta. Lucia
6:30 p.m.—Purefoods vs Alaska

ITS thrashing of Tanduay branded as a height mismatch, Purefoods collides with an all souped-up Alaska Milk today at the PBA All-Filipino Cup at the Araneta Coliseum.

The Hotdogs debuted with success over the Rhummakers, 75-64, after exploiting their height advantage down low, an area where the Aces would most likely concentrate in their 6:30 p.m. encounter.

Ranged against bigger and heftier foes in Sta. Lucia Realty, the Aces, despite executing an error-stricken match, unexpectedly emerged victorious against the Realtors in their collision during the opener last week.

Youth and vigor, coupled with a lot of enthusiasm, played a crucial role for the Aces, who had a thorough makeover in the preseason.

With power forward Bong Hawkins, pivotman Edward Juinio and playmaker Johnny Abarrientos all gone, Alaska coach Tim Cone will have to bet all his money to veterans Kenneth Duremdes and Rodney Santos.

San Miguel Beer guns for a similar objective when it tackles Sta. Lucia Realty in the curtain-raiser at 4:15 p.m.

The Beermen simply frolicked in the face of a token opposition in Barangay Ginebra which showed signs of rustiness during their coming out party last week.

Meanwhile, rookie Mark Caguioa shone as Barangay Ginebra subdued Tanduay Gold, 84-72, in Urdaneta City last night. The Gin Kings improved to 1-1, while the Rhummasters dropped to 0-2.

June Navarro

Boost

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

IF it's for the good of golf, by all means, let's embrace it as our own.

Thus, here's to the organizers of the MRT-Southwoods Open, which ends today at Southwoods.

I am applauding, continue to applaud, at the risk of inviting brickbats from some friends who view the MRT-Southwoods Open as a mere cosmetic job by organizers following the scrapping of the much-ballyhooed President's Cup.

Heck, I'll not be cowed. I decide on the basis of what's good for golf, what the tournament's intention is. I discard the organizers and train instead my sight on the beneficiaries.

In short, my heart always goes to the players; oftentimes, the organizers are nameless, faceless.

Some of the country's top pros are at Southwoods, battling for the P100,000 top prize put up by Fil-Estate's Bob Sobrepeña.

Not a bad pot for a start.

The tournament should trigger a golf renaissance in the face of what many expect would soon be an upswing on the nation's economy. GMA is a ray of hope.

To sustain the circuit initially pegged to have five legs, Bob said he'd transport the same starting field of 60 pros to Baguio for the Tour's second stop at John Hay set for Feb. 15-18.

"The trip is for free," said Bob. "Our pros need the much-needed boost so that the game of golf which we all love will recover its old luster."

From John Hay, Bob said the Tour would go to Sherwood Hills, Forest Hills and Fairways and Bluewater.

Here's a glass to you, Bob. May you not waver in your commitment to pursue the cause of our pros.

■

The mud-slinging in amateur basketball, weightlifting and cycling has got to end. If we don't stop, we hurt nobody but the athletes. So let's stop the squabbling, fellas? The SEA Games are but around the corner.

The solution?

Cito Dayrit, the Olympic boss, should immediately decide which of the contending parties in the three trouble-plagued NSAs are the real leaders duly recognized by the Olympic movement. In the absence of Cito's decisive action, the fighting will go on and on and on.

What's stopping you, Cito, from making a final decision?

It's your call. Some will get hurt but then, what is right is right. The true mark of a leader is when he's not afraid to make a decision—in the quickest way possible.

Just do it, Cito. And let history judge you.

SPORTS ON TV

Compiled By Lorenzo Manguiat

GOLF: Heineken Classic 2001, Day Three at 6 a.m. (r), Final Day at 1:30 p.m. (r- 12:30 p.m.) on Star Sports

LPGA Subaru Memorial of Naples, Final Round at 4:30 p.m. on ESPN

Golfglobe 2001 at 5 p.m. on Star Sports

BASKETBALL: US NCAA – Marquette Golden Eagles vs Memphis Tigers at 8 a.m. (r) on ESPN

NBA Inside Stuff at 9 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

Chinese National Basketball League at 11:30 a.m. on Star Sports

BILLIARDS: 2000 Women's Tournament of Champions Finals at midnight (r) on ESPN

BOXING: Great Fights of the Early 50s at 12:30 p.m. on ESPN

Friday Night Fights at 10 p.m. (r) on ESPN

WRESTLING: WWF Metal at 9:30 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

SOCCER: Italian Serie A at 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. (r) on ESPN

Welcoat barely survives Shark

GAMES TUESDAY *(Makati Coliseum)*
3:30 p.m.—Blu Sun Power vs Montaña (for 3rd)
5:30 p.m.—Welcoat vs Shark

By Dennis U. Eroa

SHARK Energy Drink came out fighting, but titleholder Welcoat wasn't in the mood to budge an inch.

In a memorable encounter, Welcoat proved the steadier team down the stretch as it repulsed Shark, 92-86, to take a 2-0 lead in the PBL Challenge Cup best-of-seven championship series.

Despite the setback, the Energy Drink Kings went out of the Makati Coliseum holding their heads high, obviously satisfied that they have regained the respect of the fans.

Shark came to the ballgame carrying the stigma of a forgettable 72-59 loss in Game One. That loss put a big question mark on the Energy Drink Kings' ability to mount a comeback.

Those doubts were quickly erased as Shark overcame a listless start, engaging Welcoat to a shootout up to the final minute.

But as expected, gunner Ren Ren Ritualo shot the lights out of the Coliseum, although it was the tandem of Allen Patrimonio and Celino Cruz who made the big plays down the stretch.

Cruz buried a triple, while the wide-bodied Patrimonio dealt two crucial assists plus an undergoal stab which turned a close, 81-79 Welcoat lead to a comfortable, 89-85, lead, 43 seconds left.

Ritualo exploded with 20 points, while Yancy de Ocampo and Jojo Manalo shot 13 apiece.

Criticized for their so-so plays in the first game, Chester Tolomia and Roger Yap pounded the hoop relentlessly with 25 and 22 points, respecitvely.

Tolomia missed just one of 16 free throws, enabling Shark to stay in the hunt, 65-65, at the end of the third period.

Earlier,Blu dumped Montaña, 63-48, forcing a winner-take-all game for third on Tuesday.

"It was a great game and I'm proud of the team," said Shark team owner Raul Panlilio.

WELCOAT 92—Ritualo 20, Manalo 13, De Ocampo 13, Villoria 11, Patrimonio 10, Cruz 10, Pamintuan 6, Canlas 4, Sison 3, Tan 2.

SHARK 86—Tolomia 25, Yap 22, Sotto 14, Castro 10, Robinson 9, Malabanan 3, Ortega 2, Ybañez 1, Echavez 0, Velez 0.

Quarters: 22-23,42-47,65-65,92-86.

Magic repulse 76ers in double OT, 123-117

PHILADELPHIA—Darrell Armstrong scored 13 of his 34 points in the second overtime as the Orlando Magic overcame 47 points by Allen Iverson to beat the Philadelphia 76ers 123-117 Friday night.

Tracy McGrady had 25 points _ all in regulation _ and Mike Miller added 24 points, including 16 in the third quarter, as Orlando won its third straight.

Theo Ratliff had 21 points and 13 rebounds and Tyrone Hill added 15 points and 10 rebounds for Philadelphia, which had won 17 of its last 20 games.

Armstrong gave Orlando a 115-110 lead on a jumper with 1:50 left in the second overtime as the Sixers missed their first four shots.

After Ratliff cut it to 115-113 with a free throw, Armstrong hit a 3-pointer to put it away.

Meanwhile, Karl Malone made history by scoring 16 points and hauling down seven rebounds, passing the 13,000-rebound mark for his 16-year career in Utah's match against the Hornets Thursday night.

Three minutes after tipoff, Malone's defensive rebound put him into an exclusive club whose members also have at least 26,000 points and 13,000 rebounds. He passed the 32,000-point plateau in Tuesday's win over Seattle.

In another development, Iverson was fined $ 5,000 by the NBA on Friday for shouting a derogatory remark about gays toward taunting fans.

Complete results: Indiana 103, Denver 94; Orlando 123, Philadelphia 117 (2ND OT); Miami 91, Atlanta 80; New York 95, New Jersey 71; Boston 102, Detroit 95; LA Lakers 93, Charlotte 87; Sacramento 105, Vancouver 95 *AP*

SPACE permitting, Henry Liao's NBA Notes will appear tomorrow.

SPORTSWATCH

W. Negros IX triumphs

BACOLOD CITY—Host West Negros College reserved its best for last by whipping Mindanao champion La Salle Academy-Iligan, 5-1, Friday to capture the 17th Coke Go-for-Goal under-16 national football crown at the Paglaum Sports Complex here. Billy Rey Batayola produced three goals in the 27th, 63rd and 75th mintues to spark the Wesnecans to their second national title in 14 years. The locals first won the national title in 1987. They made the 1996 finals but lost to Cebu's Salazar Institute of Technology. Batayola's sparkling performance also earned for him the MVP (Most Valuable Player) award in the tourney organized by the Philippine Football Federation, hosted by NOFA headed by Rep. Charlie O. Cojuangco and sponsored by Coca-Cola with Adidas as official ball.

Martina faces Lindsay

TOKYO—World number one Martina Hingis lived up to her pre-match promise to beat Magdalena Maleeva for a place in the final against Lindsay Davenport at the Pan Pacific Open tennis tournament on Saturday. The Swiss top seed, champion here in 1997, 1999 and 2000, fended off an array of deep, fast and heavy strokes from the eighth-seeded Bulgarian to secure a 6-3, 1-6, 6-0 victory. Davenport, who defeated Hingis to win the title in 1998, powered past Russian pin-up girl Anna Kournikova 6-1, 6-7 (5/7), 6-0 in the second semi-final match. *AFP*

RP girding for Davis Cup

THE LONG, hard climb to the top starts for the Philippines this week when it opens its campaign in Group III of the Asia-Oceania Zone Davis Cup competitions at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center. The Filipinos, aching to regain their place in the elite Group I of the zone, will trade strokes with the netters from Bahrain, Sri Lanka and Singapore in group A of the eight-nation, two-group event where the top two teams will be promoted to the zone's Group II next year.

Kareristas' money goes to Mare, Lipa church?

ONE WINNER

Edwin Villanueva

MEN who have a sense of *delicadeza* are real men in the truest sense of the word.

Thus, we doff our hats off to all government officials, all those who were appointed during the Estrada administration, who immediately tendered their courtesy resignation when Gloria Macapagal Arroyo stepped in as the new president.

At the Philracom, there were officials who did the right thing. They earned the praise of the racing public, except for one, who is said to be bent on clinging on to his post.

The racing official we are referring to is reportedly moving heaven and earth to stay stuck at the racing body, even soliciting the endorsement of the various sectors to back him up for his purpose.

This fellow, according to sources, may get the nod of some misinformed groups but definitely not the majority, those who play a major role in the industry that has since gone wayward ever since the disgraced former President Estrada appointed his men to control the racing body.

What the *bayang kareristas* are clamoring for is a complete revamp of the Philracom leadership which has practically done nothing to inject life into the local racing industry during Erap's term.

"What local racing needs now is a leader who knows the ins and outs of the sport and the industry as well. *Di dapat yung walang alam na gaya ng isang opisyal dyan,*" said a horseowner who requested anonymity.

A noted trainer who is also disgusted with the Philracom performance said: "*Ang kailangan na lider* Philracom *yung bata na aktibo at palaging nasa opisina araw araw.*"

The trainer, who also requested anonymity, stressed the fact that on several occasions that he went to the Philracom to get an audience with the official, the latter was not always around.

This official, according to another source, habitually comes only to the Philracom offices in Makati during board meetings on Fridays and is completely absent most of the working days when he is needed more.

If President Gloria is listening, she should heed the clamor of the whole *bayang kareristas* who want a younger, more knowledgeable and more dynamic head of the Philracom.

***

Unclaimed dividends from the country's two racing clubs—the Philippine Racing Club and Manila Jockey Club—go a long way in helping various charitable institutions.

Last year, the Philracom handed bounties to several of these groups, reportedly among them were former First Lady Loi Ejercito's MARE association and a parish church in Lipa City, Batangas.

Now, how true are rumors that MARE got a cool P1 million out of those dividends while the others received what were considered as *barya* (loose change)?

Also, *kareristas* also want to know why a certain Parish of San Sebastian, Archdiocese of Lipa City, received a total of P100,000.

Mare, our sources said, got the Philracom nod because the racing body's head under the Estrada administration is a relative of one of Loi's close confidants and that the same official comes from where else, but Lipa City?

As Doc "Clean Living" Inigo loves to say: "Just asking."

Under racing rules, dividends unclaimed after 20 working days are considered forfeited in favor of charitable institutions to be determined by the Philracom.

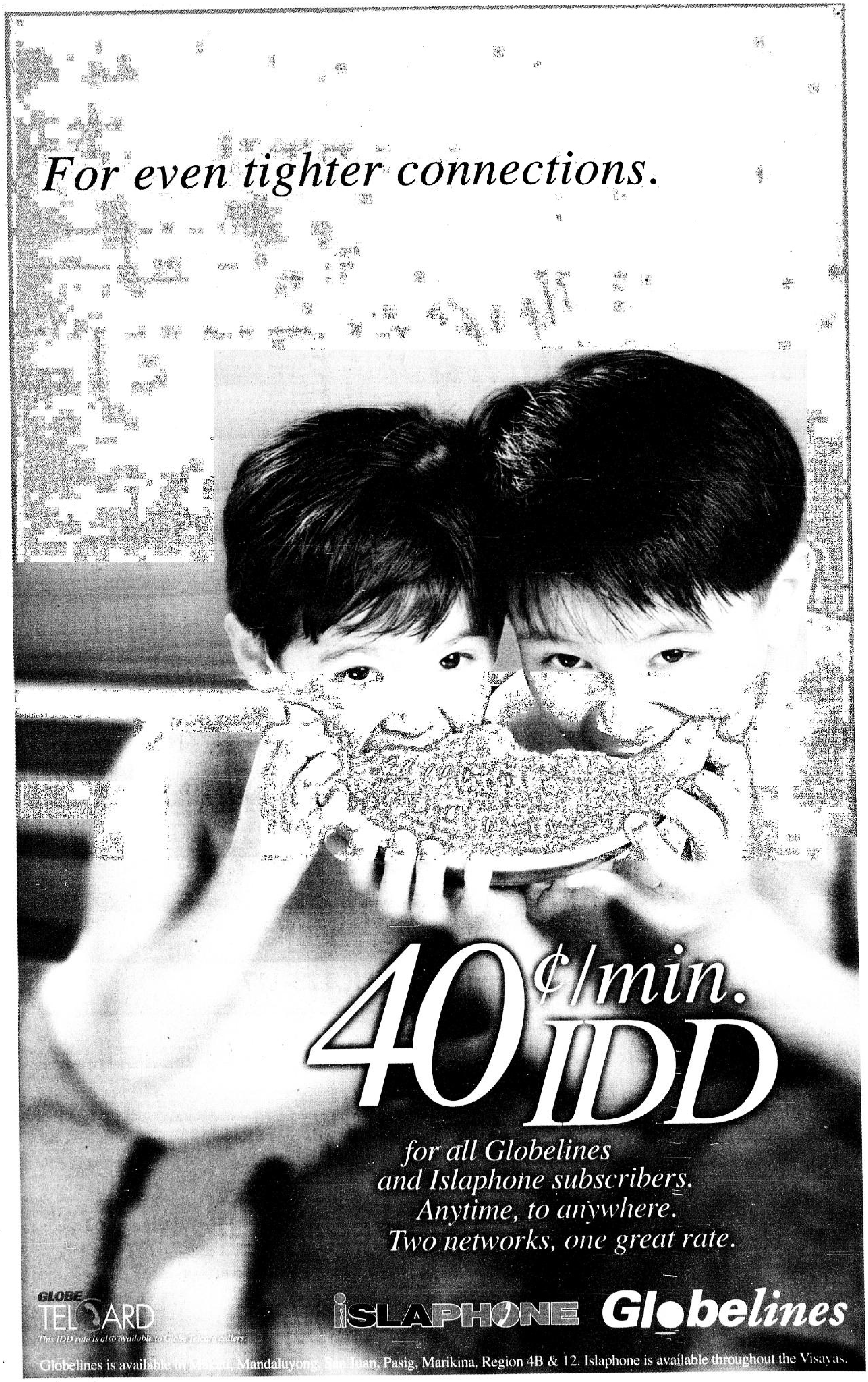
That means to say that what were given to MARE and that church in Lipa City were all the poor racing fans' money.

The whole *bayang kareristas* is demanding a thorough explanation on this matter.

RACING TIPS

AT SAN LAZARO BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Green Buck 2. Memorandum 3. Silky Sullivan 4. Arresbee
Race 2—1. Be Ready 2. Don Benito 3. Ray Moon 4. Sir Olizon
Race 3—1. Ever Green 2. Shuttle's Magic 3. Batang Pier
Race 4—1. Anahaw 2. Charmingly Chit 3. Diana 4. Triple Joy
Race 5—1. Kiwi Rose 2. Bull Rider 3. Foolish Heart
Race 6—1. Kokoro 2. Affectionate 3. Little Voices 4. Midnight Show
Race 7—1. Kingair 2. Simlong 3. Miguel's Pet 4. Classic Finale
Race 8—1. Super Regent 2. Modulo Queen 3. Access
Race 9—1. Premiere Event 2. Globe Master 3. Commandments 4. Like A Prince
Race 10—1. Marvelous Jay 2. Grace and Fortune 3. Lady Witty 4. Race for Gold
Race 11—1. Gold Pyramid 2. Top Quest 3. Dinner Dress 4. Bishop King
Race 12—1. Daseldurf 2. Jazz Queen 3. Scholar Girl
Race 13—1. Make Your Mark 2. Baptism of Fire 3. Primero de Mayo 4. Roman Queen



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Keeper, raider

SPO4 Norberto Murillo, 48, and other agents of the drug enforcement unit of the Western Police District Station 9 last Tuesday arrested three suspected pushers and seized a kilo of shabu from them. Four days later, Murillo himself was under arrest—for filching 300 grams of the shabu.

Jerome Aning

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

'Lacson' kills 'Pimentel'

ELMER Lacson Canelas, 33, of Caloocan City, on Wedneday night shot dead Rolly Pimentel, of Tondo, Manila, not because of the impeachment of former President Estrada but because the former raised his voice at the latter. The two were security guards at a Chinese restaurant in Quezon City.

Philip C. Tubeza

UP groups swap charges over missing ₱15 M

Council members to sue opposition

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE P15-million fund mess at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City, has pitted various student councils against each other, to the point that one group is now preparing to file libel charges against its opponents.

Members of the UP Diliman Student Council and the Katipunan ng mga Sangguniang Mag-aaral sa UP (Kasama sa UP) are set to file charges tomorrow against their opponents for issuing a statement accusing the Student Council and Kasama sa UP of "pocketing" P15 million in public funds.

"This is too much," said Nina Festin, vice chair of the UP Diliman Student Council. "They went too far this time."

Festin said her group would likely file the charges before a Quezon City court and the Student Disciplinary Tribunal of UP.

Former student regent Hannah Eunice Serana was earlier tagged as a suspect in the loss of the P15 million, which was meant to renovate UP's Vinzons Hall Annex.

Kasama sa UP and the student council denied having any knowledge of Serana's actions.

But Sanlakas-Youth, the student councils of the College of Business Administration and the College of Social Science and Philosophy, as well as the student political parties Samasa and Buklod-CSSP, claimed in a statement that "a staunch anti-Erap youth group" took the money.

"How dare they wash their hands when, in fact, Serana was a product of a flawed selection process supported and endorsed by Kasama sa UP and the present USC-Diliman," the statement said.

Kasama sa UP and the current Diliman student council are identified with the Reaffirmist wing of the Leftist movement. Their opponents are said to belong to the Rejectionist wing which had split with Jose Maria Sison, chair of the Communist Party of the Philippines.

The UP community was stunned when they heard that Serana, a former UP student regent, had been accused of embezzling P15 million in public funds.

BLOOD AND FAITH

The faithful and the curious have been flocking to the Roxas Elementary School in Quezon City after three Grade Four students reported they saw this image of the Virgin Mary shedding what appeared to be blood.

JOAN BONDOC

Chavit the man

Pinoy Times
MATIRA ANG MATIBAY

ILOCOS Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, the survivor in a battle against his former friend, former President Estrada, reappears in this week's issue (#16) of Pinoy Times Special Edition. This time he is written about as a person, seen through the eyes of neighbors in his Quezon City home.

In the same issue are articles on the unseen hand that appeared to lead members of the prosecution panel in the impeachment trial of Estrada, the signing in secret during the impeachment trial of the controversial contract with Impsa, the power firm, and Mikey Arroyo as the reluctant son of the new President.

The issue is now on sale. Copies of Pinoy Times Special Edition may also be obtained at Pinoy Times offices which can be reached through Tel. Nos. 912-97-22 and 912-98-22.

The case of the 'artist' who helps solve crimes

By Blanche S. Rivera

TALES OF THE CITY

FRANCISCO Francisco Belandres Bejec stares life right in the face.

From the comic to the criminal, this man, at various times a comic strip illustrator and production specialist, and at present a police sketch expert, has seen them all in his almost 40 years of conjuring countenances.

The 60-year-old Franz, as his police buddies call him, is a cartographer whose composite sketches have led to many an arrest and promotion of police officers whose careers were boosted by the resolution of big cases, thanks

THE CASE/ A20

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Sony Life

Police rescue boy, 11

By Alcuin Papa

PASAY police yesterday rescued in Laguna an 11-year-old boy kidnapped by his own uncle in Pasay City on Jan. 30.

John Borja, of Bautista Street, Pasay City, was taken unhurt from his abductor, Sancho Cobe, police said.

Members of the Pasay City police and the Calamba, Laguna police at around 5 p.m. raided Cobe's house in Aplaya, Calamba, Laguna, where he was holding the boy hostage.

Borja's father Danny, 31, reported to SPO4 Mila Carrasco of the Pasay City police Women's and Children's Section that his son was abducted at about 5:30 p.m. on Jan. 30.

He described to the police how an agitated Cobe was looking for his live-in partner, one Racquel Baclaan, 28, who was said to have just separated from the suspect.

The father told Cobe that Baclaan had refused to make up with him, police said. This enraged Cobe so much that he decided to take the boy with him to Laguna, police said.

Pasay police were able to trace Cobe's whereabouts and closely coordinated with the Calamba police in rescuing the boy.

Close Manila Bay to commercial fishing, fishermen ask Gloria

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.,
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

MARAGONDON, Cavite—About 10,000 small fishermen and their families living in towns around the Manila Bay have challenged President Macapagal-Arroyo to immediately order the closure of the bay to commercial fishing.

Noel Gloria, president of the Katipunan ng Maliit na Mangingisda sa Manila Bay (Kalmada), called on President Macapagal-Arroyo to support the "Saradong Manila Bay" campaign, which calls for a seven-year closure of the bay to commercial fishing under a fisheries management system provided in the New Fisheries Code.

The Kalmada head said at the recent launching of the Maragondon fish sanctuary in the coastal village of Sta. Mercedes in this town that their members used to catch 20-30 kilos of fish a day.

"But since the entry of commercial fishing vessels, our daily catch has dwindled to just two or three kilos," he said. "Our livelihood is now endangered by the continuous entry of big fishing vessels in the area."

He urged President Macapagal-Arroyo to sign the proposed executive order, which would create the Manila Bay Management Council for a coordinated, transparent and systematic management and rehabilitation of the bay.

Ka Arnel Viray, Kalmada spokesperson, claimed that any effort to save Manila Bay is "not yet too late."

"The marine environment of the bay in the area still holds 30 percent of the original marine species and corals," he said."The fish sanctuary would encompass 224 hectares, a depth of 446 feet, and 20 to 40 percent coral cover surrounding Limbones cove."

Kalmada records showed that about 700,000 people depend on municipal fishing around the bay for their livelihood with about 55,000 households dependent on traditional fishing.

The non-government organization participates in the community-based coastal resource management program, one project of which is the setting up of a fish sanctuary.

The project is difficult to put up, according to Kalmada leaders. "The hardest part was the community orientation because dynamite fishing became so common that the fisherfolk found it hard to grasp why they should end this practice," recalled Vivian Escoton, Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement-Manila Bay Field Office officer-in-charge.

Livelihood program set up in Bacoor

CASTILLO

BACOOR town in Cavite has set up a year-round livelihood training program that also extends interest-free loans to participants who want to start their own small businesses.

Mayor Jessie Castillo said capital assistance amounting to P2.5 million was given by the Bacoor Livelihood Training Center to 833 people last year alone.

"When you give people jobs, you also shield them from the temptations of resorting to vices and other criminal activities," Castillo said.

On any given day, the Bacoor Livelihood Training Center counts at least 120 town residents being taught skills in high-speed sewing, cosmetology, basic cooking and baking, building wiring, food processing and preservation and dressmaking.

Although fully funded by Bâcoor, the livelihood training center is run by the local staff of the Department of Social Welfare and Development headed by Lilian de Roxas. It has eight trainors and two staff members.

Fielding of youth party planned

THE ADMINISTRATION party Lakas NUCD-UMDP-Kampi and the People's Power Coalition (PPC) is considering the formation of a youthful ticket for the May 14 elections, according to former Manila Mayor Mel Lopez.

"Although I'm ready to lead the administration ticket for mayor, I am willing to yield in favor of candidates from the youth sector if the coalition decides," said Lopez, who is the PPC chair.

He noted that in the Manila City council alone, more than 25 percent of the members are below 40 years old. The city's voting population of more than one million is dominated by the youth, he said.

He said the coalition is in the process of finalizing the line-up for mayor, vice mayor and councilors and congressmen for Manila's six districts.

"We hope we will be able to come up with a surprise package for the May 14 elections," the former chair of the Philippine Sports Commission added.

Snatchers scatter cash to slow down pursuers

By Jerome Aning

RESIDENTS of Pandacan, Manila had the thrill of their lives yesterday when two suspected snatchers threw peso bills amounting to thousands on President Quirino Avenue in a bid to slow down pursuers.

The suspects, however, were rounded up by police about an hour later in their hideout. The two men and five others were caught having a rowdy shabu session, apparently in celebration of their heist and successful escape.

Supt. Gorgonio Rosero, Western Police District Station 7 commander, identified the alleged snatchers as Rolando Torino, 21, of the Batang City Jail gang and of Zamora Street, Pandacan; and Wilfredo Reynoso, 21, of Sigue-Sigue Sputnik gang and of Quirino Avenue, also in Pandacan.

Caught in the drug session were Armando Portajada, 27; Billy Esmael, 20; Amy Villanueva, 18; a 17-year-old boy; and a 16-year-old girl, all Pandacan residents.

Fruit dealer Remedios Canlas, 58, of Corregidor Street, Tondo, told investigators the snatching took place as she was on board a private jeepney traversing Quirino.

The jeep stopped for a red light at the corner of Jesus Street and was ascending the Nagtahan Flyover around 2 a.m. when Torino allegedly grabbed her by the neck and snatched her shoulder bag. She said the bag contained P150,000.

Canlas' son Reynaldo and his companions, who were with her on the jeepney, ran after Torino and Reynoso, who acted as lookouts.

The businesswoman, meanwhile, went to Station 7 to report the robbery.

The suspects sprinted on the south-bound lane of Quirino and turned on Zamora. To slow down their pursuers, they threw a portion of their loot on the road. The scattered money, all in P500 bills, were quickly snatched by eager residents as well as pedestrians and commuters.

Canlas' companions tried to ward off the crowd and were able to recover about P26,000. They also spotted Reynoso, who was among those picking the money, and grabbed him.

Policemen and barangay officials later arrived and began to scour the nearby communities.

Aided by Reynoso, the lawmen found the suspects in Portajada's house on Gonzales Street, also in Pandacan.

Seized from them were shabu paraphernalia with suspected residues of shabu and P500-bills amounting to P23,500, which was found hidden in the back of a radio-cassette player.

Canlas, however, still lost about P100,000 as the recovered loot totaled only P49,500. Police said part of the missing loot might either be those taken by the crowd on Zamora or was stashed in a secret place by one of the suspects.

Rookie policeman accused of raping Quezon City GRO

By Philip C. Tubeza

YESTERDAY, the eve of the Philippine National Police's 10th anniversary, a rookie Quezon City policeman was arrested after a guest relations officer (GRO) accused him of rape Wednesday night.

Investigators also found out that PO1 Fernando U. Tan violated the election gun ban.

Tan, of the Central Police District's mobile group and of Marilao, Bulacan, was arrested after a 21-year-old GRO of the Georgetown Disco complained that he abused her, said investigator PO3 Ferdinand Paredes.

Police also confiscated Tan's service firearm, a .45 caliber pistol. Tan failed to produce a gun ban exemption order from the Commission on Elections that would have allowed him to carry around his pistol.

The suspect and an unidentified male companion went to the bar around 9:30 p.m. on Jan. 31, Paredes said.

Besides ordering food and alcoholic drinks, Tan allegedly also asked for the GRO to keep him and his friend company.

But after drinking several bottles of beer, the policeman allegedly wanted to rent a special VIP room where he could be alone with the GRO.

The case of the 'artist' who helps solve crimes

(From page A19)

to a forgotten drawing of arrested criminals.

Franz is detailed at the Central Police District but the gates of Camp Crame don't know him any less—he who spent countless days and nights watching the game of the generals in the background, listening in on the secret operations and learning the trade since the late 1970s.

He is at most times unnoticed but not unnecessary.

When government corporate counsel Jun Valerio was murdered in front of his house in Quezon City last year, Franz was among the first at the scene of the crime with CPD policemen, silently observing the mess that the controversial case made and casually talking to the victim's neighbors.

In a few days, and with the help of witnesses, Franz came up with sketches of the suspects. His drawings were immediately used by the CPD and the National Bureau of Investigation to identify and trap the suspects, which included another police force member who apparently had relations with Valerio's wife, later tagged as the mastermind.

Trade secret

"Don't just rely on investigators for information," Franz says, revealing one of the secrets of a good cartographer. "Many witnesses are afraid of talking to police so you should seek them out, too, to help in your work."

Franz, however, never sought out the morbid profession of conjuring the faces of robbers, murderers, rapists, drug pushers and other notorious criminals.

He was a savvy production specialist doing layout for various film outfits and, he admits, preying on pretty young actresses, when cartography, in the person of his cousin, Maj. Fred Muran, beckoned in 1978.

The Metrocom was up on its toes and at its wit's end trying to find those responsible for the death of someone who was said to be a friend of former first lady Imelda Marcos, who herself ordered the immediate resolution of the murder case.

The authorities had had several sketches of the suspects and some failed operations when Franz was found by his cousin doing some portrait for another film. Desperate for help, Muran asked Franz to "give it a try."

From movies to police

Soon, Franz found himself taking instructions from then Capt. Leandro Mendoza, whom President Macapagal-Arroyo only recently appointed head of the Philippine National Police.

"I didn't know what to do," Franz says. "I've never tried it before because I was always drawing fictitious characters, but I was already there so I just did it."

A week later, the suspects were caught in Quiapo, and Franz, the comic/cinema illustrator became the celebrated cartographer of the Metrocom.

Before he could get used to the fame-no-fortune status, the requests for cartographic sketches kept coming in, and the accidental cartographer realized there was serious work to do.

Franz's works also led to the arrest of the suspects in the kidnapping of scions of rich families like Robina Gokongwei and her cousin and the daughter of the Aguirres, who own BF homes Parañaque, and the series of robberies perpetrated by the Kuratong Baleleng.

Franz says he didn't charge for his services then but accepted only what was handed to him, if any. He was content to be on the good side of powerful people like Brig. Gen. Prospero Olivas, who was then commanding general of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine Constabulary.

Good-looking stars

Besides, he says, he was still earning a lot from his stint in various film outfits like Leah Productions, Larry Santiago Productions and RGQ, which he helped put up with legendary comedians Dolphy and Panchito, his billiard pals in Soler, Manila.

Franz earned about P20,000 per film then. His job was to do the credits and billing in the movies, prepare the print ads and take the actors for pictorials.

He admits his wife was then more worried about his nights out with good-looking film people than when he is called to go with the police for late night operations concerning serious police cases.

"I didn't have problems with my security, but it was my wife and family I had difficulty dealing with," laughs Franz, who admits that as an artist, he "appreciates" women. A lot.

"But I wouldn't go home to anyone else but my wife," he insists, adding he was not like most police officials who are known for marital unfaithfulness.

And so it was that while he hobnobbed with actors like former President Joseph Estrada, Chiquito, Vilma Santos and Elizabeth Oropesa, he also earned the friendship and trust of police officials like Rolando Abadilla.

Good, intelligent

"Many officials today are in their post only because of their ties to the powers-that-be," Franza laments. "But there are really good and intelligent policemen who don't easily climb the ladder because they don't have connections."

He goes on to name the likes of RAM leader Reynaldo Berroya, Jess Versoza and Isagani Henabe, all of whom he describes as "super *galing*" but seem to have been set aside because of politics. Berroya was a figure in the Edsa II that ousted Estrada two weeks ago.

Franz has kept in touch with his former bosom buddies in Manila, where they all started out as comic strip illustrators. Most of his pals are now in the United States, either with Walt Disney or as freelance portraitists in Hollywood.

But it was in cartography that Franz seems to have found his fulfillment as an artist with a social responsibility, saying his face-to-face encounters with the harshness of reality have made him understand life and appreciate goodness more.

THE ST. SCHOLASTICA'S College High School Spirit of '76 class celebrates its 25th year homecoming today, Sunday, at 4 p.m. This is the first batch in the history of St. Scholastica's-Manila to perform at the newly renovated St. Cecilia's Hall. With the theme "Silver Screen," alumni members will perform dance numbers inspired by foreign and local movie musicals. Above are some members of the High School Spirit of '76 class: president Sony Jalandoni, vice president for external affairs Nina Diaz, vice president for internal affairs Lody Padilla-Espenido, treasurer Yves Tankeh-Javellana, PRO Macy Macam-Pineda, and board members Tata Estaniel, Daisy Vilar-Carbonell, Ceres Laredo-Santos, Malit de Leon, Noemi de la Pena-Concepcion, and Marissa Mancia-Tecson.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, February 4, 2001
5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: **Is 6:1-8**

In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted; the train of his robe filled the Temple. Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: two to cover the face, two to cover the feet, and two to fly with.

They were calling to one another:
"Holy, holy, holy is Yahweh Sabaoth.
All the earth is filled with his Glory!"

At the sound of their voices the foundations of the threshold shook and the Temple was filled with smoke. I said, "Poor me! I am doomed! For I am a man of unclean lips living among a people of unclean lips, and yet I have seen the King, Yahweh Sabaoth."

Then one of the seraphs flew to me; in his hands was a live coal, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. He touched my mouth with it and said, "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin is forgiven."

Then I heard the voice of the Lord, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" I answered, "Here I am. Send me!"

2nd Reading: **1 Cor 15:1-11**

Let me remind you, brothers and sisters, of the Good News that I preached to you and which you received and on which you stand firm. By that Gospel you are saved, provided that you hold to it as I preached it. Otherwise, you will have believed in vain.

In the first place, I have passed on to you what I myself received: that Christ died for our sins, as Scripture says; that he was buried; that he was raised on the third day, according to the Scriptures; that he appeared to Cephas and then to the Twelve. Afterward he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters together; most of them are still alive, although some have already gone to rest. Then he appeared to James and after that to all the apostles. And last of all, he appeared to the most despicable of them, this is to me. For I am the last of the apostles, and I do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the Church of God. Nevertheless, by the grace of God, I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been without fruit. Far from it, I have toiled more than all of them, although not I, rather the grace of God in me.

Now, whether it was I or they, this we preach and this you have believed.

Gospel: **Lk 5:1-11**

One day, as Jesus stood by the Lake of Gennesaret, with a crowd gathered around him listening to the word of God, he caught sight of two boats left at the water's edge by the fishermen now washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to pull out a little from the shore. There he sat and continued to teach the crowd.

When he had finished speaking he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch." Simon replied, "Master, we worked hard all night and caught nothing. But if you say so, I will lower the nets." This they did and caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. They signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. They came and filled both boats almost to the point of sinking.

Upon seeing this, Simon Peter fell at Jesus' knees, saying, "Leave me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" For he and his companions were amazed at the catch they had made and so were Simon's partners, James and John, Zebedee's sons.

Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid. You will catch people from now on." So they brought their boats to land and followed him, leaving everything.

Commentary:

Coming home with an empty boat is a familiar experience with most of us who have experienced failures. There are times when even our best efforts come up to nothing. It is then that we are in for a surprise encounter with an unassuming man who asks only to ride in our boat as we mend our nets and brood silently over our fruitless toil. He dares us to lower the nets out in the deep waters so that our empty boats are filled to the brim, we almost sink in disbelief. We realize only later that we had already been caught, like fish even before we had cast our nets. He had already started to fill our emptiness as he addressed the crowds on the shore with a message that was really meant for us. Now he wants us to do the same—to ride on so many empty boats waiting to be filled.

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., U.P. Village, Diliman, Quezon City, U.P. P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: claret@cnl.net; Website: http://www.cnl.net/claret

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CRIMINAL LAW (PERSONS CRIMINALLY RESPONSIBLE)—Accomplices—Article 18 of the Revised Penal code penalizes as accomplices those who, not being included in Article 17 (which enumerates those liable as principals), cooperate in the execution of the offense by previous or simultaneous acts. In order that a person may be considered an accomplice, the following requisites must concur: (1) community of design; that is, knowing the criminal design of the principal by direct participation, he concurs with the latter in his purpose; (2) that he cooperates in the execution of the offense by previous or simultaneous acts, with the intention of supplying material and moral aid in the execution of the crime in an efficacious way; and (3) that there be a relation between the acts and those attributed to the person charged as an accomplice. Appellant herein had no direct part in the execution of the killing and maiming of the victim. Nothing on record shows that he had induced his two sons to go on a stabbing frenzy. Appellant's utterances could not have been the determining cause of the commission of the crimes. If at all, it merely had further inflammatory effect on the accused. As such appellant cannot be considered a principal by inducement. Neither can appellant be held as a principal by indispensable cooperation. By his proven acts, appellant could be held liable only as an accomplice. [Citations omitted.] [*En Banc*, Justice Quisumbing, People v. Rafael, G.R. No. 123176, October 13, 2000]

Digest by R.B. Vera

CHRIS O'DONNELL

Hollywood's Mr. Nice Guy takes it to the limit

By Ruben V. Nepales
Exclusive to Inquirer

INTERVIEW

LOS ANGELES—Only in Hollywood can a person be put on the defensive for being "nice."

I half-expect actor Chris O'Donnell, cinema's nice all-American guy (and he's a Catholic, to boot) to back up his good guy reputation by blushing when he is asked by a writer if he has a "dark side" and if his seeming lack of an "edge" is a liability for him. Several writers in the hotel room titter.

But O'Donnell doesn't blush. He must have heard these questions, which sound almost like dirty accusations, many times before. He tries to answer properly, befitting a man who is a true exception among his colleagues.

He did not live in with his girlfriend, Caroline Fentress, until they got married in proper Catholic church wedding rites.

In person, the 30-year-old, 5-foot-9 actor with deep-set blue eyes lives up to his reputation. He is indeed Nice Guy personified. No leather jacket or designer duds for him. He is wearing a black cap, a gray tee and jeans.

He is best remembered as Robin in the two hit "Batman" movies in the '90s and as a preppie guide to Al Pacino's blind character in "A Scent of a Woman," for which he earned a Golden Globe Award nomination and won the Chicago Film Critics Award.

This morning, O'Donnell is talking to reporters about his new thrill-a-minute movie, "Vertical Limit." The otherwise wholesome-looking Chicago native sports a beard and longish hair in some of the earlier scenes of the Columbia Pictures movie directed by Martin Campbell.

O'Donnell's climb to fame has been remarkable. At 13, he looked up talent agencies in phone books and started calling them. He recalls that he would be put on hold and after 10 minutes, a voice would say, "Who is this?" Eventually he landed a McDonald's commercial in which he served breakfast to Michael Jordan. He skipped an audition for the role of Jessica Lange's son in the memorable "Men Don't Leave" in favor of a Bruce Springsteen concert but fortunately, he was given a second crack to try out. O'Donnell won raves in that movie which was a breakthrough for him.

Here are excerpts of our interview with O'Donnell:

Would you climb again after this movie?

I've never climbed before. I have zero interest in climbing. But if I go to a gym and there's a climbing wall, yeah, I'll jump on that. I also enjoyed the ice climbing. If I were given the opportunity, I'd do it. I wouldn't exactly seek it out or plan a family ice-climbing trip. It's a dangerous sport. Even in rock climbing, a lot of accidents happen. And in serious climbing, on the K2 or Mt. Everest, one in 10 people who attempted died in the process.

So what appealed to you about "Vertical Limit"? When you signed up for this movie, did you think it could be a big hit?

I wasn't thinking even that far ahead. At that time, I really wanted this part. I wanted to work with director Martin Campbell. I've read "Into Thin Air" and I was blown away by that book. There was a lot of the elements in the script that reminded me of the book. My character's relationships reminded me of the relationship in the book between a climber and his wife back in New Zealand.

I wasn't even a huge climber at that time. I met Martin for the first time and he said, "Are you fine with all heights?" I said, "Oh yeah, absolutely," thinking in the back of my head that we'll cross the bridge when I get to it. This is a great role, a big action film that has as much drama in the movies that I have done.

So you don't have a fear of heights?

Oh, no, I've got fear of heights! But I'm more comfortable now. I used to have fear of the climbing equipment. I never trusted the equipment. We spent four weeks training to get comfortable with it. You look at the harnesses and ropes and you start wondering, how can this little thing hold me? This rope is going to snap, it's rubbing against the rock up there, and it's going to break in half. Our trainers gradually worked to ease this fear and they make us go climb higher, do crazier things and eventually you get comfortable with it.

You're the father of two now. Can you fathom what your character's father in the movie does?

Unbelievable. I imagine myself in similar situations, using my real father and my real sister, but this is a situation that is so unheard of. Just imagine your dad telling you to cut the rope (holding him so O'Donnell's character, Peter, and his sister, played by Robin Tunney, can survive). Peter is struggling to make a quick decision because he respects his father's judgment. He has always listened to his father. His father is commanding him. At the same time, Peter is thinking, "I'm not going to cut the rope and kill my father."

What that sets up is later in the movie, he's still carrying his guilt all these years and when he gets to the scene in the tent where his sister Annie tells him to turn back, you see it in his eyes that there's nothing that will stop him. This time, he has a chance to redeem himself and although he may be killed in the process, he's still going to try and save her.

What has fatherhood been like for you?

It's just amazing that there are these two little people who weren't there almost two years ago are suddenly the most important thing in my life. You always hear people saying you can't imagine what you can love.

But it's true.

There are interesting dynamics between you and your sister in the film. Does this parallel your relationship with your real sisters?

I have four sisters. One sister and I are 11 months apart in age so as kids, we were always stuck together. We were always at each other's throats. Now it's amazing because ever since we left home for the first time for college, 12 years ago, we have become best friends. But when we were stuck home and we had to hang out together, we hated each other. We weren't climbers but we were competitive. Still, your family's your family, and in Peter's situation, Annie is all he has left and the fact that she won't forgive him, she won't speak to him, is killing him inside. I'm lucky I have good relationships with my brothers and sisters.

Would you come to their rescue?

Not like this (in the film) (laughs).

Do you miss that time when you were being tagged as this hot young actor?

Yeah, but for me, it always felt like a real gradual climb because I did my first movie 12 years ago. It was a big step for me. But obviously, "Batman Forever" was the movie that launched my career. Suddenly, I was getting offered everything. It was exciting, crazy that year. It's almost harder to pick movies when you're offered everything than when you're not offered anything because suddenly, you're the green light element. You're the reason a film gets made.

During that time, I get a script and I ask, "Who's the director, and who's the costar?" and they'd say that they don't have a director yet, there are no costars but they'll get people after I say yes. So they ask, "Are you interested?" But I don't know what I'm signing on for yet.

They say, "We're going to do a rewrite but are you interested?" I don't know! This situation is in contrast to when you're just trying to get a part, and they tell you exactly what is involved so when they ask, you say, "Yeah, I'm in."

Do you prefer romantic or action roles?

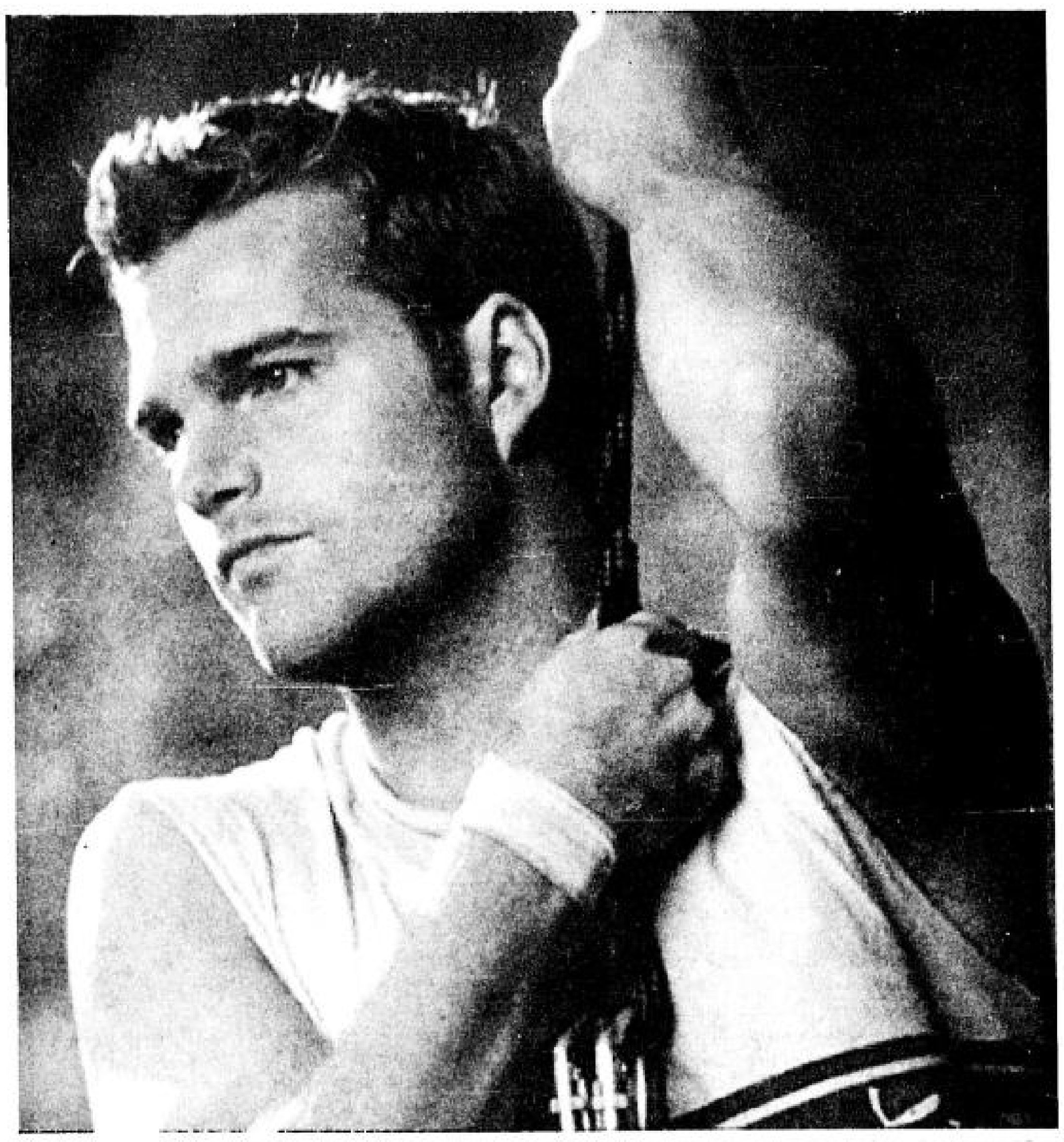
The ideal situation is when you get to choose the things you'd like to do. But a lot of times, you settle for what's the best thing available. I'd like to do something that shakes my onscreen image because I've always played nice guy roles. This is not to say that if some great romantic comedy role comes along, I'm not going to jump at the chance to do that.

A lot of it has to do with timing and what's out there and available. There are only so many scripts and there are a lot of actors. You go try to get the best part that you can.

So many people in Hollywood have that edge. You don't seem to have that edge. Everything seems exactly perfect for you, as if you wrote it down just the way you want your life to be. Has this lack of edge ever worked to your disadvantage?

Sure, sure. To put it this way, for people to whom this would work to my disadvantage, I don't really care. I don't run with the whole Hollywood crowd. I hardly ever go out in the Hollywood circles. Yeah, I go to premieres but I've got an interest there, it's my movie's premiere or it's a good friend's. I don't try to go out to be seen or be mysterious. I have no time for that.

I have other stuff going in my life. I'm sure there have been times when directors have probably seen me like that (a seeming lack of edge) and were thinking of me for their films, but they go, "No, he's just not right for it." Maybe they didn't give me a chance to come in and read for something. But if that was the case, I wasn't aware of it. I've never heard any comments that went, "They don't want to see you because of this" but that could very well be the situation.



MAN WITHOUT THE EDGE. O'Donnell started to call up talent agencies when he was 13.

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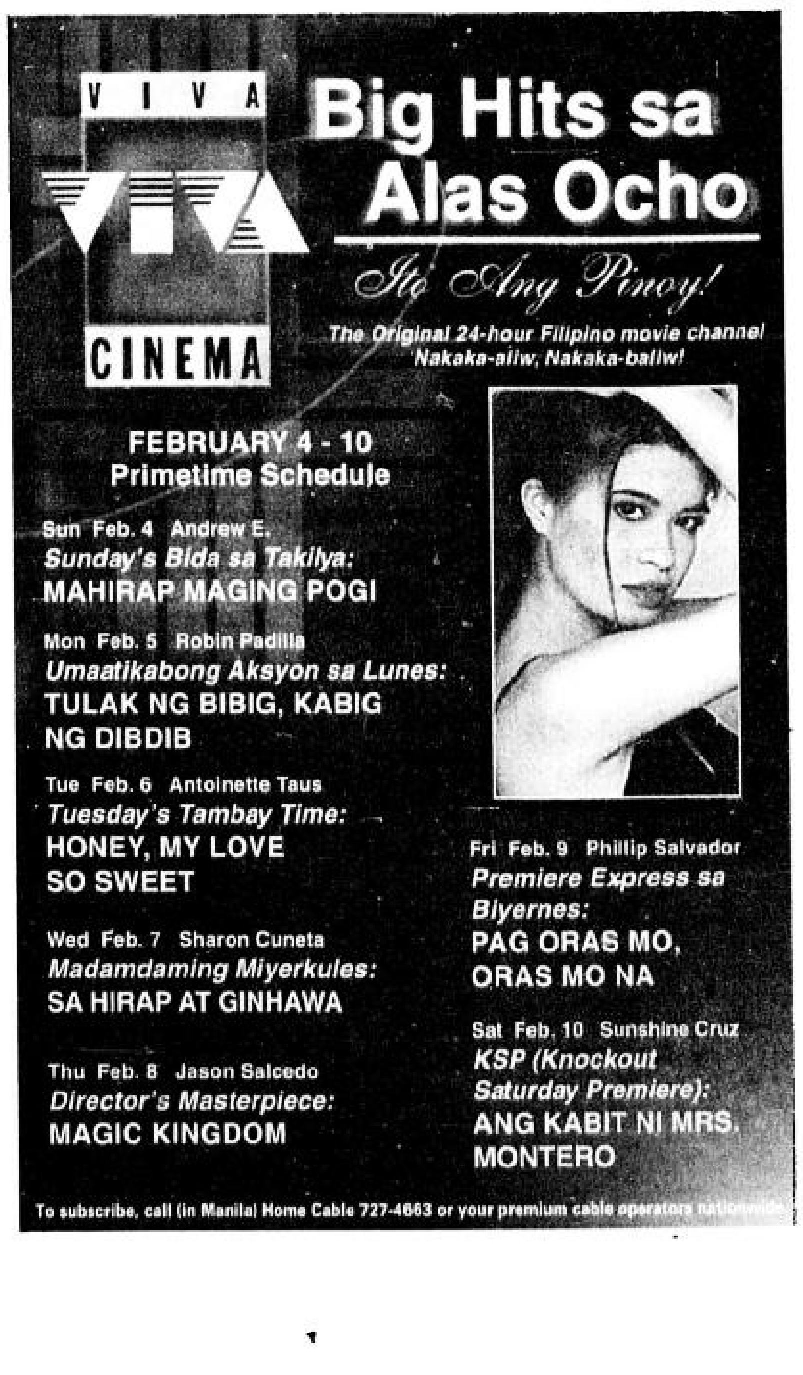

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Movie about live sex show workers to be shown at last

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

MORE THAN a year after it drew raves at the Berlin Film Festival, **Joey Reyes'** "Toro," which has been retitled "Live Show," will finally be shown in Philippine theaters.

Due to its controversial theme and realistic sex scenes, "Live Show" was shelved for a year. Reyes and Regal Films producer **Lily Mon-teverde** waited for the right time to show the movie and both feel the time is now.

"Live Show" tries to expose the truth about live sex performers, otherwise known as "toreros." It leads viewers to the dark corners of the places where private sex shows are held.

"Toro" is the term used to describe the live sex show. The acts are often performed in dimly lit rooms of sex dens, where men pay a high price to watch up close.

Reyes gives moviegoers an intimate account of what the "toro" performers are made of and how they look at life from the small wooden stage where they do their thing.

Reyes insists that "Live Show" is not only about the men and women who engage in sexual acts before a live audience. The film is also about their many entangled relationships, their constant struggle with poverty and their unfulfilled dreams.

With Mother Lily, Reyes assembled a cast of mostly raw and reticent actors who don't have qualms about baring their bodies on the big screen. Their performances can be best described as riveting.

"Live Show" the movie may be safely said to belong to new actor **Paolo Rivero**, who plays the central character.

Paolo admits his *torero* role is both physically and emotionally draining. And he's not just referring to the many "sexual positions" he had to perform.

"Undressing in front of the cameras is bad enough, it's even more tiring to engage in repeated sexual acts, doing different positions with different partners," Paolo says.

"After doing the movie, my heart really went to the real people who do this job. I was able to understand them well."

He shares stellar billing with sexy actresses **Ana Capri** and **Klaudia Koronel**.

Veteran actress **Daria Ramirez** makes a brief but marked appearance. **Hazel Espinosa** does her most daring and challenging role yet.

The uninhibited **Simon Ibarra**, **Martin Gonzales** and **Marcus Madrigal** display brawn and also add a lot of meat to their performance.

Many people who have seen "Live Show" said it is one of the boldest and bravest attempts in contemporary filmmaking.

The subject of live sex performers, however, is not new to local cinema. Several years ago, **Chito Roño** did a daring take on the same subject with the controversial "Private Show," starring **Jaclyn Jose**. Roño tackled the subject again with "Curacha," starring **Rosanna Roces**.

MOVIE/ A24

THE WOMEN of 'Live Shows' bare their bodies and their acting prowess: Hazel Espinosa, Anna Capri and Klaudia Koronel.

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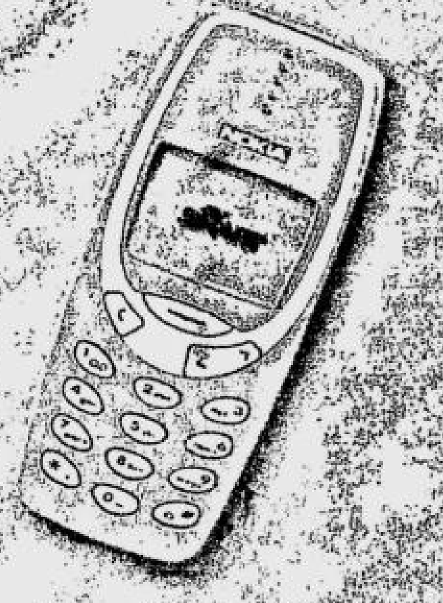

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‘What Women Want’ as seen by a woman

(From page A26)

speaking what's on her mind—a trait which the mind-reading Nick (and most secure men, I have to say) finds both rare and attractive.

The chemistry between both actors is both funny and warm. Personally, there seems to be more chemistry here than there was between Nicholson and Hunt in “As Good As It Gets.” In both films, however, Hunt's character saves the men from their darker side.

Poking fun at himself

The talented supporting cast includes Marisa Tomei (“My Cousin Vinny”) as a love-scarred waitress, Alan Alda (MASH) as the ad agency president. Delta Burke (TV's Designing Women) and Valerie Perrine (Lenny) as a pair of ex-showgirls-turned-secretaries all take a backseat to Gibson, who appears content and oh so very capable of driving this picture from start to finish.

The really great fun in this movie is watching the very manly Mel poke fun at himself. With Nicolas Cage or Kevin Costner, it would have seemed ridiculous. Tom Hanks, Richard Gere—I don't think so. With Gibson, it's just perfect.

Many feminists will probably not take lightly the portrayal of many women here. But then this is not a thinking movie. What it is is an enjoyable, light romp that dances around the similarities and differences of the sexes without bothering to delve into the psychological underpinnings of each sex.

There are, in fact, many warm, memorable scenes here but the one that stands out most is Gibson's dance to Sinatra's “I Don't Want to Dance.” Viewers, female especially, will swoon over Mel's smooth moves. This scene joins the ranks of Gene Kelly's song-and-dance act in “Singin in the Rain” or even the young Tom Cruise's underwear show in “Risky Business.”

Watch this film if only to see Gibson in this wonderful scene.

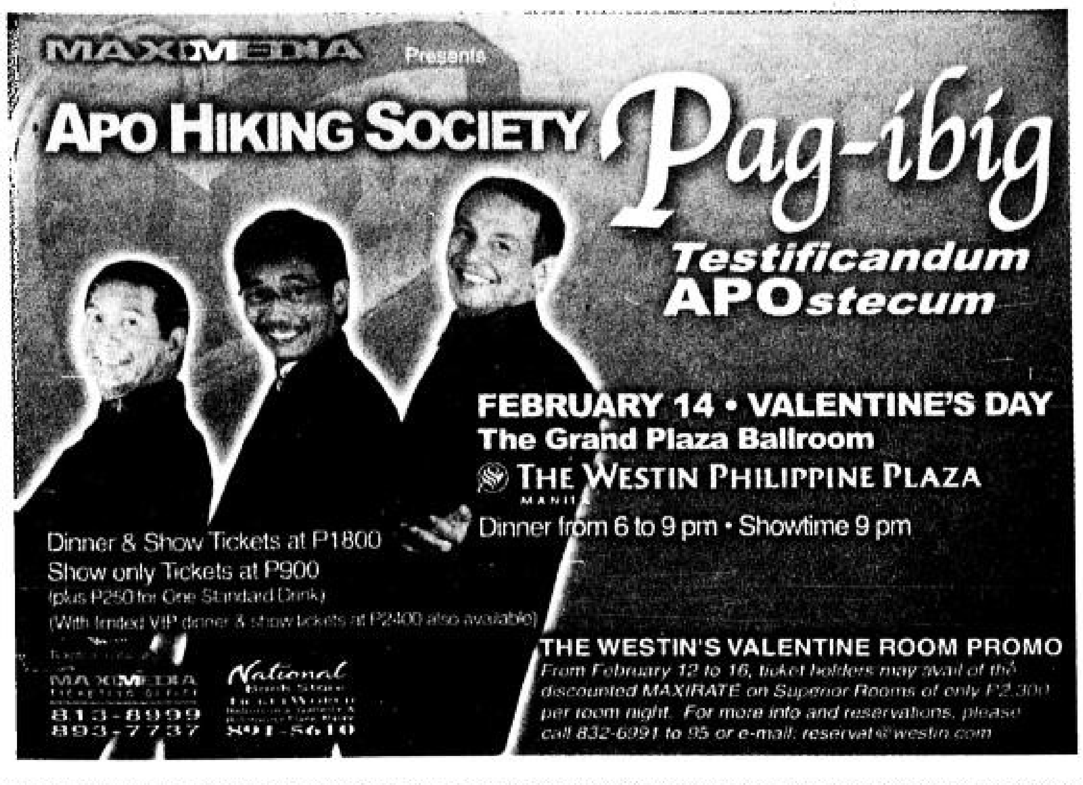
Loud and clear

Much of the humor here is sexually-oriented and, in my view, more appropriate for an R18 film. Take a 13-year-old to this movie and you'd have to clarify a lot of issues afterward. Plus, the role-modeling for teen behavior is not exactly ideal although Gibson's daughter, portrayed by the talented Ashley Johnson, is justifiably hostile.

Fathers can learn a thing or two in this film about the importance of building a relationship with their daughters.

Nevertheless, the movie manages to get its message across loud and clear. To find a sensitive man who can listen, *really* listen to her thoughts, hear her out her joys, as well as her pains is every woman's dream, is what every woman, or young girl for that matter, wants. A man with the looks of Mel Gibson but with the kindness, sincerity and sensitivity of one's mother, sister, or close confidante? Only in the movies, and that, to quote another Hunt film, is as good as it gets.

Email the author at cbguballa@inquirer.com.ph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8 (SDDS) 102 DALMATIANS
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2 BOOBA
3 MALIKOT ANG AGOS

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1
2 LITTLE NICKY
3 TABI TABI PO

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1 TABI TABI PO

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2 SYOTA NG BAYAN
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(From page A22)

Tikoy Aguiluz did his share with "The Boatman," with **Ronnie Lazaro** and **Sarsi Emmanuelle.**

Mel hits it big

MEL Gibson, star of the funny and thrilling "Lethal Weapon" series, proves again that he can be a crowd-drawing comedian.

"What Women Want," his latest film, has been a certified box-office hit in the Philippines. It marks Gibson's first attempt at the romantic-comedy genre, opposite Academy Award winner **Helen Hunt.**

In the United States, "What Women Want" was also a hit. The movie, directed by Nancy Meyer, has surpassed the $100-million mark in just 18 days. It has set records as the biggest three-day weekend opening in Hollywood motion picture history,

Gibson's top-grossing movie of all time even eclipsed the box-office record for a romantic-comedy earlier posted by **Roger Michell's** "Notting Hill," starring **Julia Roberts** and **Hugh Grant.**

In "What Women Want," Gibson plays a chauvinistic advertising executive who is bypassed by Hunt for a promotion. After a freak accident, he suddenly discovers he can read the minds of women and he uses this power to get back at Hunt.

"What Women Want" is released in the Philippines by Pioneer Films.

'Hollow Man' now on video

"HOLLOW Man," the most anticipated sci-fi thriller starring Kevin Bacon ("Wild Things," "Apollo 13," "A Few Good Men," "Murder in the First"), Josh Brolin ("Mimic," "The Mod Squad") and Elizabeth Shue ("The Saint," "Palmetto," "Leaving Las Vegas") is now available on VHS, VCD and DVD formats on MagnaVision.

In the Columbia Pictures' provocative suspense-thriller, scientists Linda Mo Kay and Matt Kensington struggle to devise an antidote to save arrogant team leader Sebastian Caine from the dangerous effects of his top secret formula for invisibility.

"Hollow Man" is presented by Axe Deocologne and Sari-Sari Store, with FHM Magazine and Home Cable.

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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	SYOTA NG BAYAN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	TABI TABI PO
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	WHAT WOMAN WANT
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	VERTICAL LIMIT
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	THE YARDS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	VERTICAL LIMIT
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	BOOBA
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	VERTICAL LIMIT
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	SYOTA NG BAYAN
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	SYOTA NG BAYAN
MIRAMAR	LARO SA BAGA / PORNOGRAPHER
ODEON	VERTICAL LIMIT
ODEON-2	HINDI SISIW ANG KALABAN
ROBEN	SYOTA NG BAYAN
TANDEM-1	MALIKOT ANG AGOS
TANDEM-2	WHIPPED
TIMES	READY TO RUMBLE / CROCODILE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	ANAK NG YAKUSA
ACT-2	ANAK NG KANO
ACT-3	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
ACT-4	TURN ON
CORONET-2	SYOTA NG BAYAN
QUEZON-1	TABI TABI PO
REMAR	SYOTA NG BAYAN
REMAR-2	HINDI SISIW ANG KALABAN
CUBAO	
OCEAN SUPERAMA	SYOTA NG BAYAN
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OCEAN CINEMA-B	TABI TABI PO
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79/633-78-51 TO 70
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STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-54091 TO 19)
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CINEMA-9 (DTS)	VERTICAL LIMIT
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	VERTICAL LIMIT
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	WHAT WOMAN WANT
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CINEMA-14	THE YARDS
CINEMA-15	SYOTA NG BAYAN
LORES	
CINEMA-2	TABI TABI PO
CINEMA-3	HINDI SISIW ANG KALABAN
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8:25 PM - What Women Want
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PROOF OF LIFE
Meg Ryan/Russel Crowe
opens Wednesday February 7

Get a copy of the 3rd issue of Pelikula: A Journal of Philippine Cinema and learn more about Comedy King Dolphy and other Filipino artist, Movie fans & idols

Pelikula is one of the beneficiary projects of the LRP Foundation, published jointly with the U-P College of Mass Communication.

Hear the Difference, Feel the Excitement

Human nature at its worst

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

"AMERICAN Psycho" is not for the faint-hearted. **Mary Herron**'s film takes viewers into the fetid, cruel, homicidal mind of a young Wall Street comer (**Christian Bale**) who kills people for pleasure—or so he and the movie would like us to think, until just before the film ends.

The film implies that cold-blooded materialism saps the humanity out of some damaged people's psyches, turning a few of them into potential serial killers after they snap. Most of their colleagues don't sink so low, but they too are victims of the materialistic ethos' dehumanizing greed and avarice.

Thus, on the outside, Bale's character appears to be the very personification of success – he's young, handsome, has a great job and apartment, dresses well, eats in chic places, snorts the best cocaine, has a trophy girlfriend, and generally lives life to the hilt.

Inside, however, he's a putrid mass of vicious impulses. He loves to dominate people, and to act as self-appointed judge of whether weak or flawed individuals deserve to live or die.

His apartment is full of death-dealing implements that he wields with cool expertise. They are in constant use because there are many people out there who irritate him, or are so weak that they are practically begging to be eliminated from the human gene pool.

Adding to Bale's anguish and anger is the fact that, for all of his success, he's a nameless cipher because, in his rarefied world of high finance, there are a thousand young comers exactly like him.

The movie makes a major point of the fact that people keep mistaking Bale for somebody else.

Subtly robbed of identity and worth in this way, he is free to kill his offending colleagues because he has the perfect alibi: they think he's somebody else.

This is heady, chilling stuff, and it makes the movie a numbingly cautionary viewing experience. In a sense, Bale's character is like a younger Hannibal Lecter in "The Silence of the Lambs" in his warped, evil appeal. He is alternately repulsive and attractive, or even repulsively attractive, both at the same time.

Watching the film unfold, the viewer is stricken with a deep sense of dread as he sees human nature at its worst personified by Bale's character. When he lures his victims into his lair and starts to kill, dismember and disembowel them, viewers feel like they too are being victimized and violated.

While the proceedings can be gory, filmmaker Herron paces most of the movie's scenes with cool, clinical dispatch. In fact, one of her most terrifying scenes features no carnage at all.

This is the sequence where Bale invites his young secretary to his pad, fully intending to add her to his list of victims, but she eludes death without her even knowing that her life has been in danger.

The scene works particularly well because it contrasts Bale's murderous intent with the secretary's innocence and sexual yearning for him—a complex skein of delicate contradictions that has a strong psychological effect on viewers who see themselves in the dark about how horrendously evil her boss can be.

In terms of performance, Bale dominates the film with his convincing portrayal of the literally heart-less, would-be serial killer. And the actresses who play his victims come up with contrastingly compelling characterizations as well. But it is Herron's view of a modern world gone viciously insane that is the film's strongest suit. There, but for the grace of God, go we . . .

Sneak previews

WALT Disney Pictures' "102 Dalmatians" will have sneak previous on Monday and Tuesday, Feb. 5 and 6, in selected Metro Manila theaters.

In the film, **Glenn Close** again plays the ultra-evil **Cruella De Vil**, while **Gerard Depardieu** has been added to the stellar cast as the equally vile French fashion furrier, **Jean Pierre Le Pelt**.

The National Geographic Channel presents exciting back-to-back features every Saturday this month, from 7 to 10 p.m. On Feb. 10, "Blow-Out: Wild Well Fire Fighters" focuses on fire-fighting heroes, while "Firewalkers of Kilavea" is on the world's most active volcano and "Salvage Divers" shows how a disastrous oil spill is cleaned up.

NEW POP HIT

S Club 7 unveils a new pop hit, "Never Had a Dream," culled from their second album, "7," distributed locally by MCA Universal. The group rose to popularity with the release of their self-titled CD, bannered by the lead single, "Bring It All Back." The seven talented individuals initially won worldwide attention via the series, "Miami" on BBC-TV.

Valentine dinner shows

THE PASSION of old-fashioned romance will be brought back in the three-night Valentine shows at Bert Nievera's Duelling Pianos Music Lounge, Feb. 13, 14 and 15 at Country Waffles Restaurant in Annapolis St., Greenhills.

The special Valentine dinner-shows will topbill timeless balladeer Bert Nievera and Asia's singing diva and two-time world-singing champion Dulce, together with internationally acclaimed pianist Rhul Sunico.

The Feb. 13 and Feb. 15 shows will feature all three performers, while the Feb. 14 show will be a highly charged back-to-back concert of Bert and Dulce, backed up by pianists Romy San Mateo and Martin Avila, bassist Rex Nozares and saxophonist Gerry Pineda.

The show is sponsored by Lipton Iced Tea in cooperation with Country Waffles Restaurant-Greenhills and Performing Artists Inc.

Repertoire will include all-time standards and classic favorites, OPM hits, Broadway songs, a Gershwin medley and a "Miss Saigon" suit.

Showtime for all three performances is 9 p.m..

For inquiries and reservations, call Country Waffles at 722-4422 and 722-4413 or Paps Production at 897-3183.

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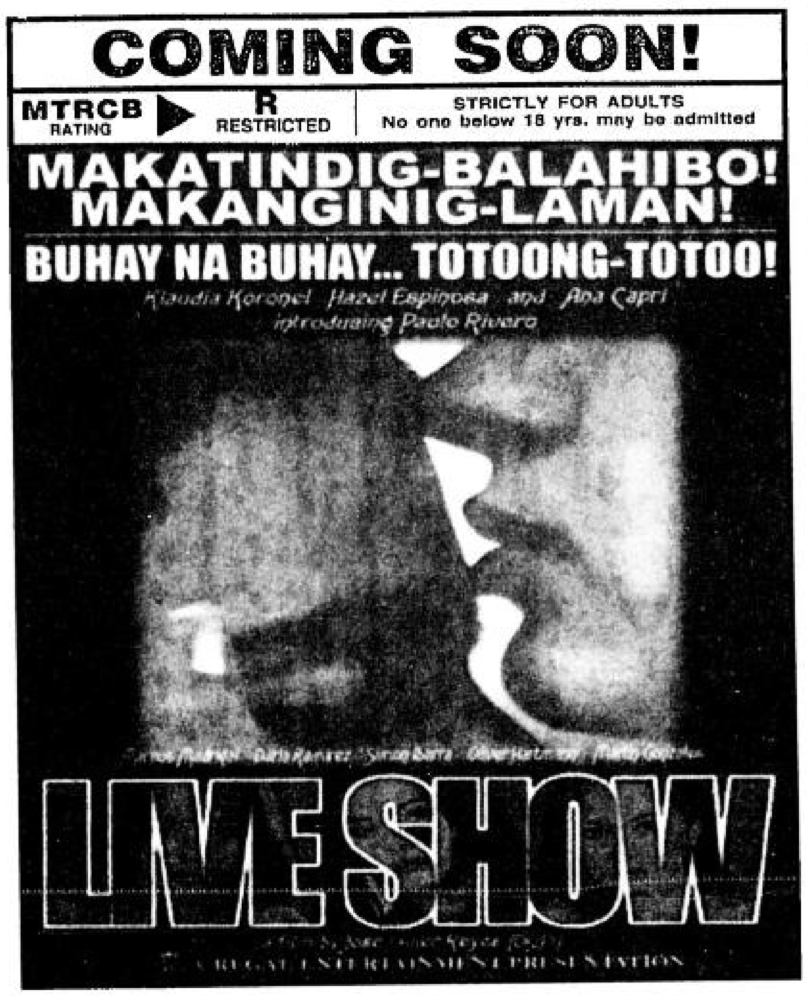

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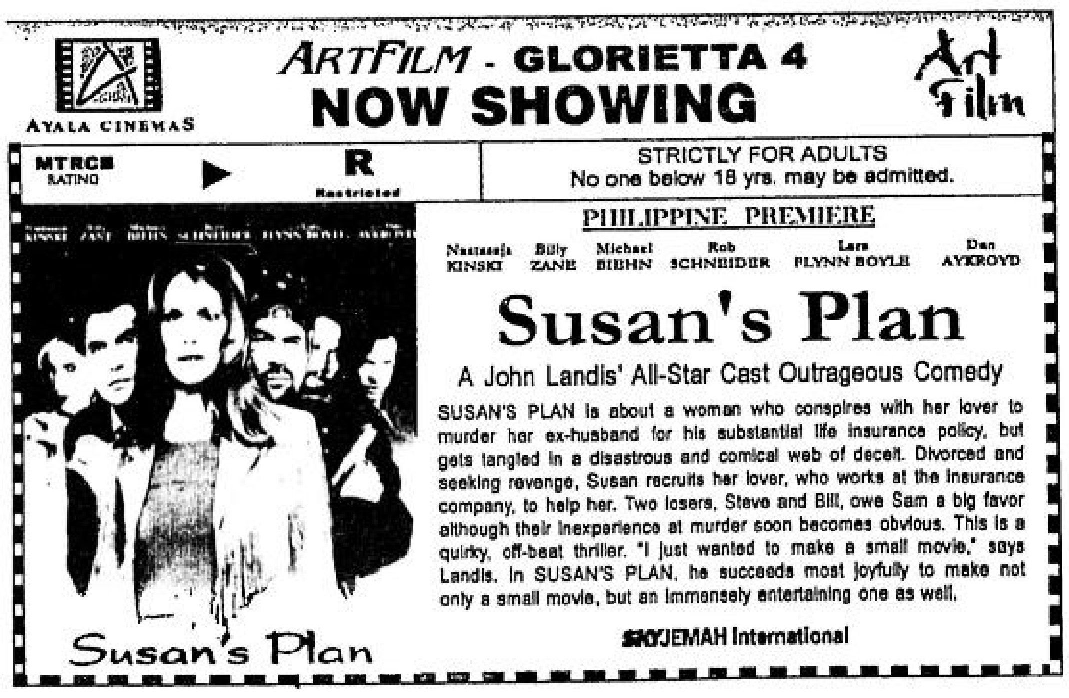

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SUSAN'S PLAN is about a woman who conspires with her lover to murder her ex-husband for his substantial life insurance policy, but gets tangled in a disastrous and comical web of deceit. Divorced and seeking revenge, Susan recruits her lover, who works at the insurance company, to help her. Two losers, Steve and Bill, owe Sam a big favor although their inexperience at murder soon becomes obvious. This is a quirky, off-beat thriller. "I just wanted to make a small movie," says Landis. In SUSAN'S PLAN, he succeeds most joyfully to make not only a small movie, but an immensely entertaining one as well.
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Susan's Plan

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4 THE YARDS 2:15, 4:40, 7:05, 9:30	5 VERTICAL LIMIT 1:10, 3:45, 6:20, 8:55, 11:10	6 WHAT WOMEN WANT 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00, 11:10

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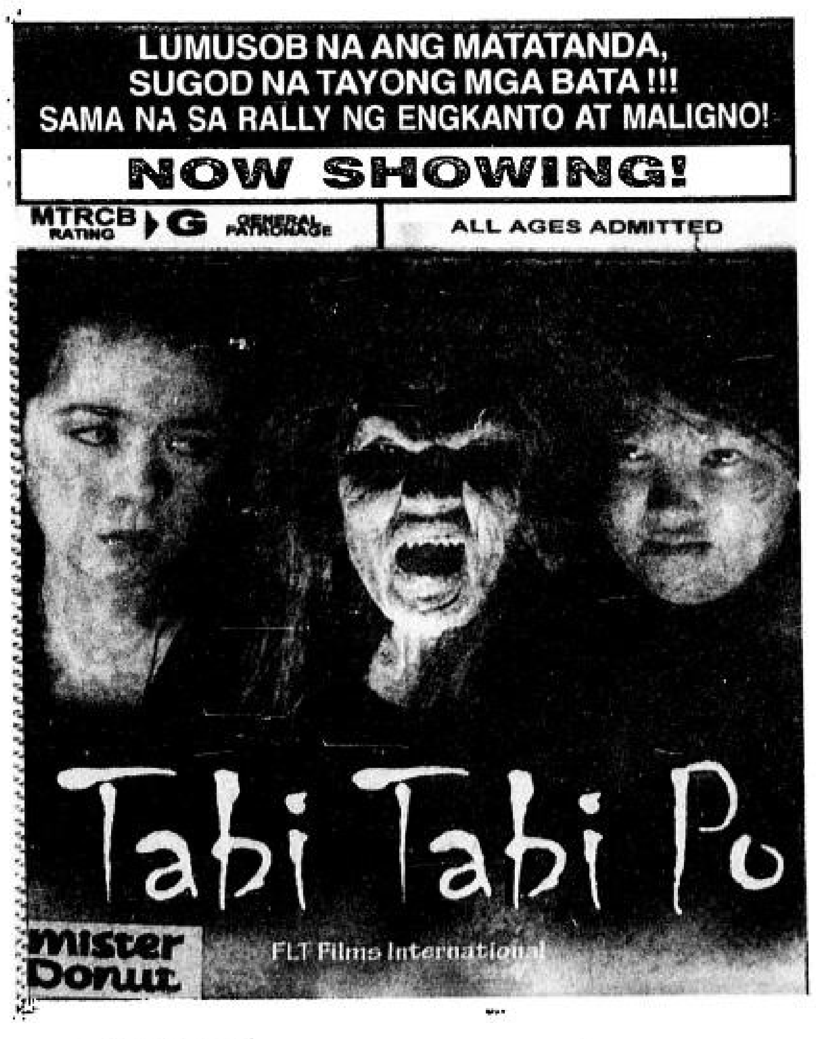

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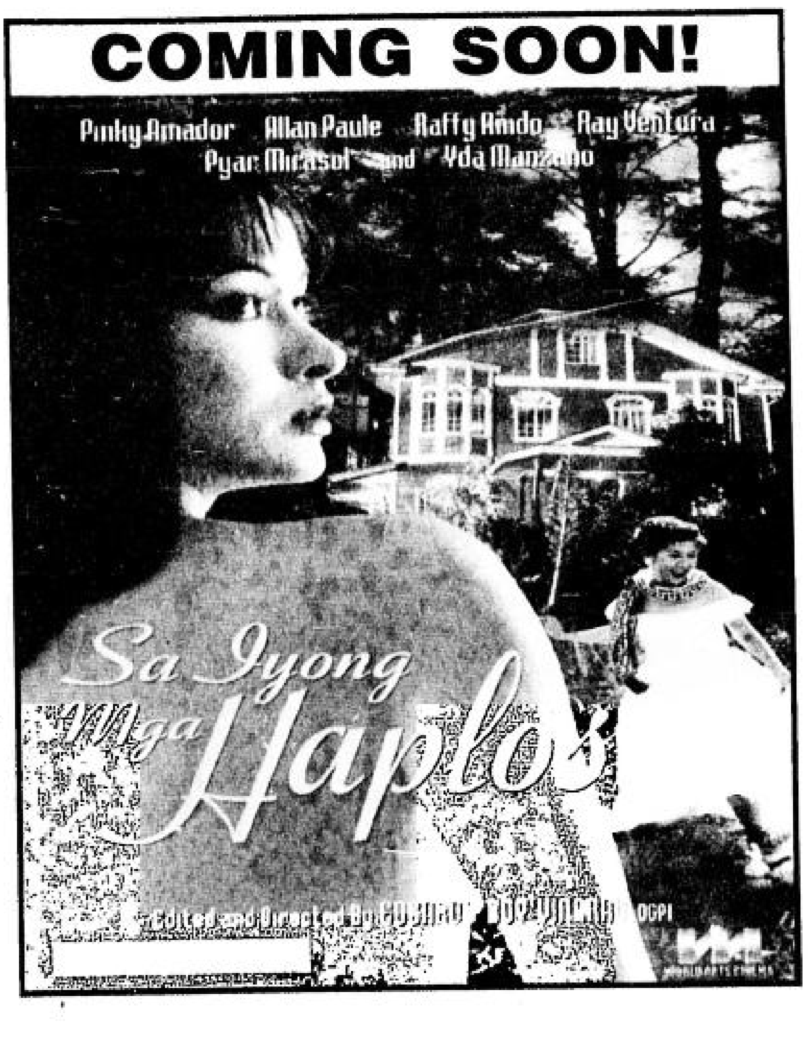

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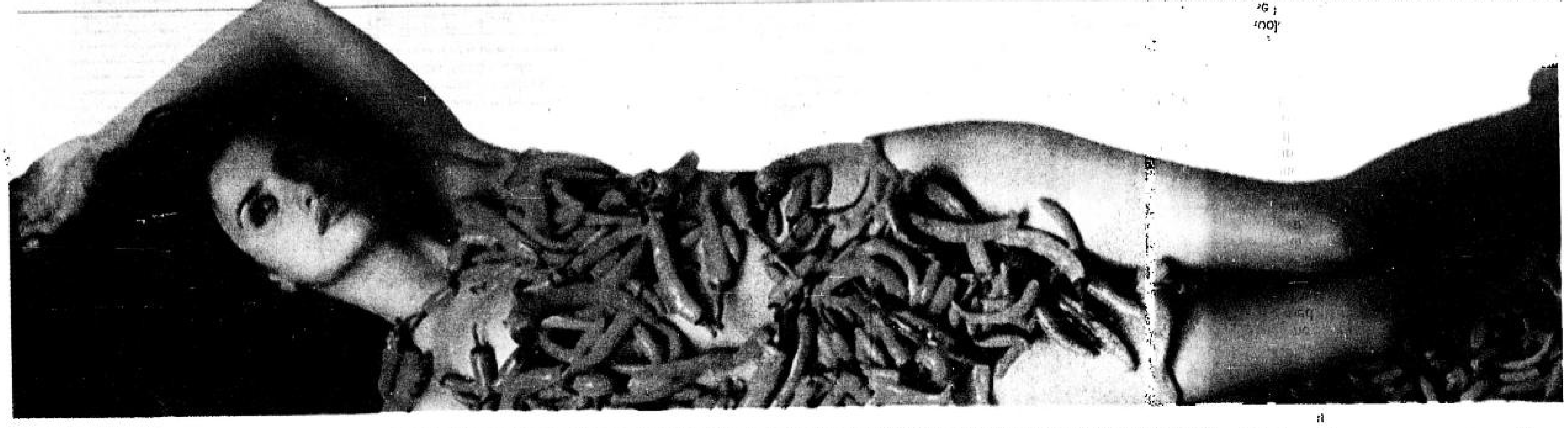
Louie C. Camino, Editor



Hot mama!

Penelope Cruz plays the magically talented chef Isabella in "Woman on Top."

Cruz has been in nearly two dozen films in her native Spain, several of them acclaimed all over the world like "All About My Mother," "Oriana" and "Belle Epoque."

Also in "Woman on Top" are Murilo Benicio, Harold Perrineau Jr. and Mark Feuerstein.

"Woman on Top" is a sexy comedy about the magic of food, love and music. Set to the intoxicating rhythms of Brazil, the movie is directed by Fina Torres ("Celestial Clockwork") and Vera Blasi.

Isabella, as played by Cruz, has the special gift of melting the palates and hearts of men everywhere. When she decides to get out of her rocky marriage and the stifling kitchen of her husband's (Benicio) restaurant in Brazil, she goes to San Francisco in pursuit of her dreams of a real culinary career. She reunites with her exuberant, cross-dressing childhood friend Monica (Perrineau Jr.), who joins her journey to discover not only her passion and potential, but the perfect recipe for coming out on top.

"Woman on Top" is released by Twentieth Century Fox and distributed in the Philippines by Viva International Pictures.

'What Women Want' as seen by a woman

By Cathy Babao Guballa

FREUD posed the question many, many years ago and men have echoed it through many generations. What do women want?

Unfortunately, movies have time again made women appear to want nothing more than to be captured or captivated by a handsome man.

"What Women Want," a romantic comedy with a modern, delicate but sharp satirical cutting edge, delves into the psyche of Everywoman to find out what it is she truly wants.

On the surface we find that women, like men, find visuals just as appealing but unlike the opposite sex, are less—if the men in this film are to be the basis—leery.

Nick Marshall (Mel Gibson) is chauvinist and egomaniac extraordinaire. He has more testosterone than most football teams. When the film opens, he's expecting an imminent promotion at his advertising agency. However, recognizing that women have become an economic force to reckon with, his firm decides to pass him over for a woman who might be better able to design campaigns targetting the female market.

The coveted post of creative director goes to Darcy McGuire (Helen Hunt) whose first command decision is to have every executive pitch a feminine product. Nick looks with horror at the pink box, distributed during a staff meeting, filled with makeup, deodorant, bath salts, and pantyhose, as Darcy challenges him to connect with his feminine side.

In the safety of his own bathroom, Nick decides to take up Darcy's challenge. Unfortunately, as he's hopping onto his tummy-control pantyhose, he trips over the hairdryer wire and manages to throw himself and the appliance into a tub filled with water.

When he recovers from the massive shock, he's stunned to discover that he can suddenly hear every woman's (including female poodles) innermost thoughts.

Initially, he feels it is a curse but slowly, after a session with his therapist (Bette Midler in a cameo) he realizes that he has a gift. "If Men are from Mars and women are from Venus, you can speak Venusian," Midler tells him.

He hones this new-found skill and in the process, begins to steal Darcy's ideas. Soon enough, he's got the promotion, and she's got the pink slip. The only problem is, while he has stolen her job, she has stolen his heart.

Hilarious scenes

"What Women Want" is a movie that rides squarely on the comedic shoulders of the terribly good looking Gibson and the film succeeds largely because he does. Gibson pours his heart and soul into the character of a self-absorbed, Sinatra-loving, politically incorrect womanizer.

Gibson deftly pokes fun at his own machismo—look out for those hilarious bathtub scenes—and he demonstrates a comedic flair and gracefulness which his more popularly known action/adventure persona has only hinted.

Hunt portrays the beautiful and bright Darcy as an independent thinker with a penchant for

WHAT/A23

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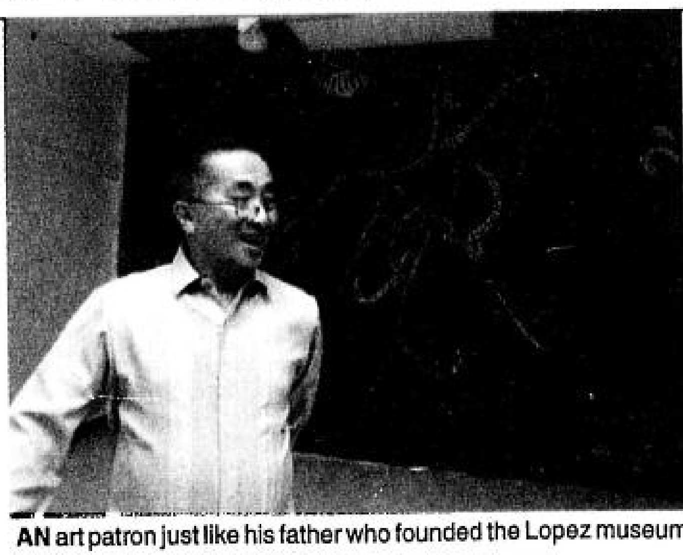
Sunday BIZ

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■ **MARGIE QUIMPO-ESPINO**, Business Features Editor

EUGENIO H. LOPEZ, the founder of the Lopez group of companies, is a source of constant inspiration to Lopez group chair Oscar M. Lopez.

PHOTOS BY JOHNNY VILLENA

THE HARVARD cum laude grad says his father's painting that hangs in the Benpres boardroom is his favorite work of art.



AN art patron just like his father who founded the Lopez museum in 1960.

NOT only a father to over 100 corporations, but also a father to eight children and over 20 grandchildren, including these triplets, born to his son Oscar Jr., shown in this picture in his office.

OSCAR M. LOPEZ

Stepping out of his brother's shadow

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

OSCAR M. Lopez knew he would step into the shoes of his brother, Eugenio, as head of the highly diversified Lopez conglomerate, when Geny passed away.

He knew it was his duty to lead the company, but he also knew that Geny's shoes were hard to fill. Geny had brought the Lopez group to heights greater than those it attained before martial law.

It was a big challenge to say the least, but the quiet and studious Oscar—Oskie to his friends—was more than just capable to meet the challenge. He brought into the company his own brand of management and a thorough knowledge of where he wants to take the Lopez group in the new millennium.

Less than two years after his brother's death, his peers in the business community named him Management Man of the Year. He was chosen to receive the award "for his responsible stewardship as the head of one of the largest conglomerates in the country, that has brought the Lopez group of companies to excellence as characterized by stronger professional management, solid family unity, continued creditworthiness, and reputation for integrity and transparency."

"I was flabbergasted," Lopez tells Sunday Biz, "I asked myself what did I do to deserve this award?"

As Lopez says in his acceptance speech last week before members of the Management Association of the Philippines, he knew that nothing less than an award-winning performance was expected of him as the new head of the Lopez group. He, however, says that he did not expect to be recognized for his efforts quite so soon.

"I guess they gave the award as recognition of what I have done as a management professional and what the group represents," Lopez says.

Lopez shares a lot of traits with his brother but he now applies his own unique style to steering the group that has over P95 billion in assets, net worth of P14 billion and some 18,000 employees.

Unlike his brother Geny who was more entrepreneurial, and thus, quick to make decisions, he studies business problems with more care. He says he studies business cases much more than his brother and he tends to rely more on teamwork and consensus before making major decisions.

"I feel that it is appropriate that I come after him. He worked fast and he was quick to decide on matters so he can build things more quickly. I am now more into coordination and in getting the group to move as one," Lopez explains.

Even if he is equipped with an impeccable educational background—graduating cum laude with an Economics degree and a Master's degree in Public Administration from the Harvard School of Business, and long years of experience in the group—coordinating the activities of more than 100 corporations is never easy.

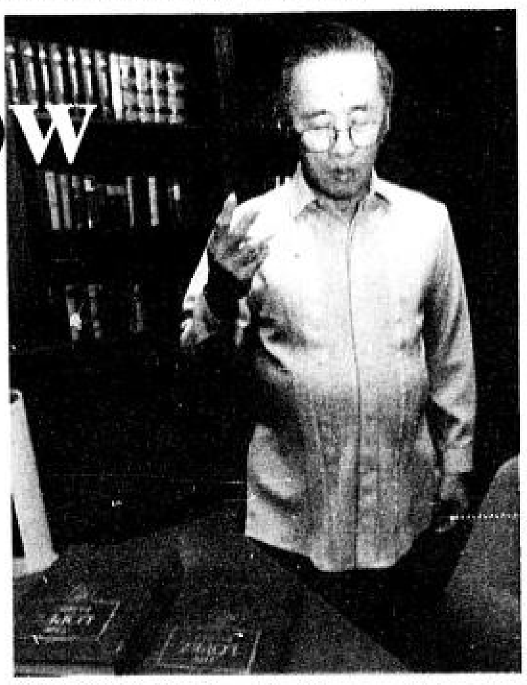
Building teamwork

He keeps himself in touch with what is happening in the group by presiding over biweekly meetings with his chief executives. He asks them to report and to inform each other on what is happening with each other's company to bring about that synergy in the group.

"There is a lot of give and take and we build a sense of teamwork within the group. I feel that it is important for us to be united and to speak in one voice if we are to survive and remain competitive," Lopez says.

In times of doubt, Lopez says he turns to his father for inspiration and he has never

STEPPING/ B2



MANAGEMENT Man of the Year awardee Lopez is a historian at heart. He authored a four-volume history of the Lopez family during the martial law years.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0302 Series of 2001

Giving tiles a second look

NOT all tiles are created equal. In the advent of global competition and liberalized trade, tile manufacturers are compelled to take stock of their merchandise and give their tiles what everyone doesn't—a good second look.

It is this frame of mind that has been at the core of Eurotiles Industrial Corp. which has been making ceramic tiles that meet European standards since 1992.

"Now more than ever, quality and pricing is of paramount importance. Tile manufacturers such as us have to compete not only within the local market but with imports as well. We find that a combination of Italian and German technology using European manufacturing standards addresses these two concerns most efficiently by allowing us to come up with a very durable product that is affordable," says Jeffrey Ng, president of Eurotiles.

In the 6.7-hectare plant facility of Eurotiles in Silang, Cavite, over 300 employees work round-the-clock producing the tiles. The automated assembly-line type of setup, which produces batch after batch of standardized ceramic tiles, belie the effort and preparation that came before the process.

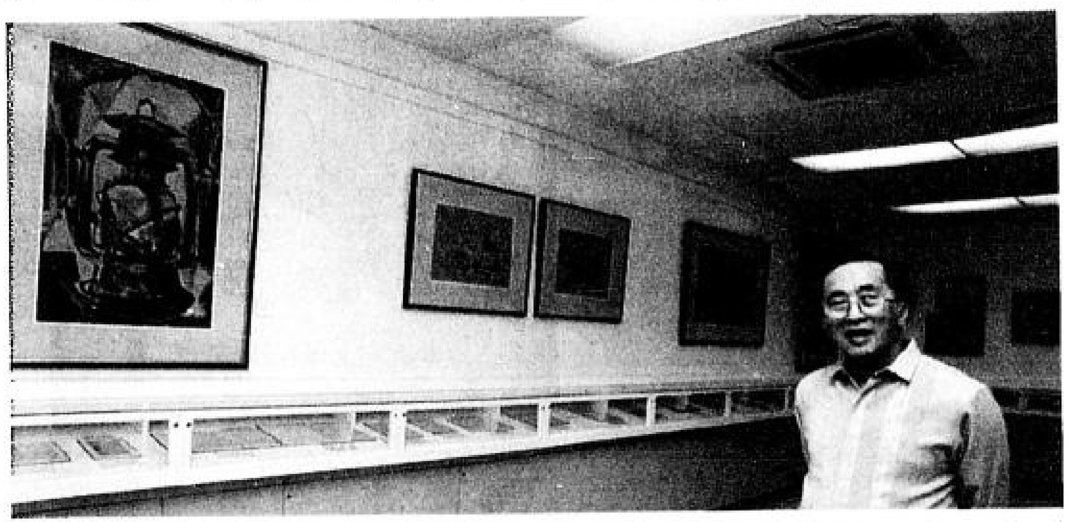
Quality control begins right from the very start when only the highest-grade raw materials—imported white clay and talc—are laid out as gigantic mounds in an on-premise warehouse with a storage capacity of 6,000 metric tons to ensure constant availability as well as consistent quality.

From here, the raw materials pass through a mixer and sifter coming out as a paste-like mixture which is then molded into tiles.

"One of the primary benchmark of quality in tiles is water absorption. By getting only the finest raw materials and maintaining the optimal consistency of the paste mixture, we are able to produce tiles that are not too porous. This means that although the tiles can "breathe," water cannot easily seep in and it retains its durability over a longer period of time," Ng explains.

From a scientific perspective, the lower the rate of water absorption of the tile, the greater its resistance to bending and breaking. This durabil-

GIVING/ B12



"OSKIE" Lopez with facsimiles of the Lopez Museum's large collection of letters penned by national hero Jose Rizal.

Stepping out of his brother's . . .

(From page B1)

failed him. Lopez points to a painting of his father that dominates the boardroom of the Benpres head office in Ortigas as one of his favorite works of art.

"He is my inspiration. He was there to guide me at every important step of the way. He was there in terms of education, values and choice of schools. When it came to my choice of women, he limited himself to saying not that one," Lopez says.

Lopez adds that it is quite appropriate that his favorite painting of his father hangs in the boardroom, a sort of a silent witness to major discussions that occur in the boardroom.

"It is like he is still there when we make every basic business decision. When we meet, he is also there," he says.

Art lover

Lopez also inherited his love for the arts from his father who founded the Lopez Memorial Museum in 1960 to provide scholars and students access to his personal collection of rare Filipiniana books, manuscripts, maps, archeological artifacts and fine art.

Lopez says Felix Resurreccion Hidalgo is one of his favorite painters saying that there is a lot of drama and a sense of movement in his works. The Lopez Museum houses one of the most extensive collections of Hidalgo paintings as well as those of Juan Luna.

He, however, says that the 90 letters written by national hero Jose Rizal to his mother and sisters are the most valuable.

Lopez also prides himself in having authored a four-volume book on the history of the Lopez family that he painstakingly researched and edited during the dark years of martial law when the Lopez family lost virtually everything they owned.

"There was really not much to do during those times so I decided to write our history. I love to do research and my father had a cousin who knew virtually everything that happened to the Lopez family. We worked on this together and the result was these books," Lopez says.

He published the book in 1982 and it forms part of his famous collection of books that is housed in a large library in his house. These books provide him much needed relief along with an occasional walk or hike in Tagaytay Highlands where he keeps a vacation house.

The publishing of the book was followed by the first grand reunion of the Lopez clan in La Paz, Iloilo, where over 1,000 family members attended.

The Lopez industrial empire was established in 1928, and traces its roots to the family's agricultural empire in Negros Occidental and Iloilo.

Family unity

Lopez says fostering a sense of unity in the growing Lopez family is one legacy that he hopes to leave to the third generation of Lopezes.

"My father and his brother signed an agreement in 1928 that whatever one brother owned was equally shared by the other brother and I am proud to say that they never fought about money. We also never fight about money and I hope that we have instilled the right values in them so that the next generation would never fight either," Lopez says.

'01 26

YOUNG artists show off their masterpieces with SCB's Ivy Cuerpo (left) and Joyce Lim (right).

Investing in the children's future

SONNY Boy, barely 12, is completely blind with cataract, but goes about dishing out the lunch fare as any boy with good vision would. He is the eldest of 11 children in Family House No. 2 of SOS Village in Alabang. Their "mother," Mama Babie, calls in 4-year-old Allan and "ate" Valerie, two of four biological siblings, orphaned and left by their mother for a domestic job in Taiwan. In the adjacent house, a pretty 3-year-old girl tinkers with a plastic xylophone, given by a visitor. Her mother is at the National Penitentiary serving a life term for murder. It was there where this same pretty girl was born, fathered by a casual visitor.

Deep in their re-potting of cabbage seeds in the small garden of House No 6 is Dixon who was roaming Divisoria aimlessly when DSWD found him four years ago. His only wish now is to have a toy robot. At another house, a 12-year-old girl, who looks like a 9-year-old, was rescued from battering when she was three, lead in praying the rosary with nine other "brothers" and "sisters."

Each of the more than 100 children at SOS Village Alabang is testimony of poverty. Fortunately, they are drawn by the four principles of child welfare concept advanced by the late Austrian, Herman Gmeiner, founder of SOS Children's Villages. Every child is given a "mother" to turn to at all times. Boys and girls of various ages grow up together as brothers and sisters. Siblings are not separated. They live as a family in a house that is part of the village community. This gives the children cultural roots and a feeling of belonging. The SOS Children's Village is not an orphanage; the children are taken cared for, sent to school, and could stay there until they are independent and could find jobs. Some SOS children in other sites in the Philippines have graduated doctors, lawyers, teachers, computer engineers.

Standard Chartered Bank recently chose SOS Children's Village as its adopted village.

Recipient of the proceeds of a successful Christmas Charity Bazaar and in-bank donation campaign, SOS Children's Village Alabang, was recently the site of a community visit by officers and staff of Standard Chartered Bank.

Encouraged by the management to render a day's work in the community, the banker-volunteers divided themselves into seven teams, each assigned in a family house. Spending the day with the children meant doing with them the usual household chores of personal hygiene and housekeeping.

Discovering the children as interesting individuals allowed the banker-volunteers to be enthralled by a variety of rich talent among the children in each house. Consumer Banking officer Joyce Lim and treasury officer Ivy Cuerpo had an artistic encounter with nine children at Family House No. 1. The youngest in the brood mounted an impressive figure of Mickey Mouse sculpted from clay, while a girl of six made an intricate tapestry. Meanwhile, head of cash payments services Elliot Kam, was all praises for his wards of 11 children aged 3-12 who recited the rosary in perfect unison, and read Bible stories with keen interest. Development organization head Edith Fadul and credit cards officer Rey Nieva toiled in the front yard with the children while re-potting vegetable plants and weeding.

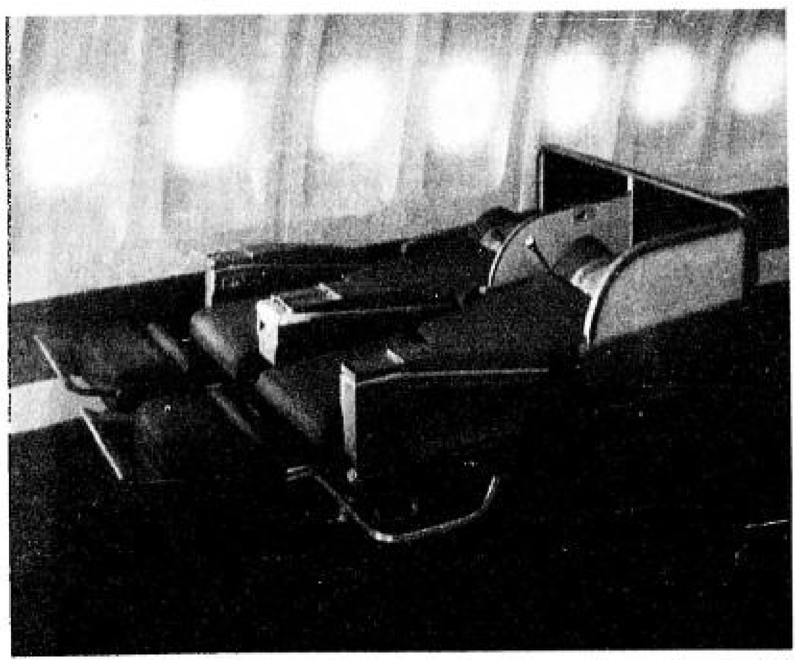
Investment services officer Carol Reyes, an expert on sign language, did interactive reading with service quality officer Izo Mamangun, and were almost floored to learn that the children—aged 3-16—are voracious readers of children stories. Four of their wards are honor students in a nearby private school. At the playground, group technology officer Mhile Velasco discovered skilled volleyball players.

An interesting aspect of the community outreach of the bank was the turnover of several boxes of children's books generated by the campaign "Books Around the World." The 740-branch/office international network of Standard Chartered sent books for this ongoing campaign, now neatly packed in blue-and-green shelves that were newly constructed for the SCB's Learning Center at the SOS Children's Village. Report has reached the SCB office that a week after the turnover the Learning Center is teeming with children who would crowd the center hooked on the books, and would neatly bring them back to the shelves after use.

Highlighting the community visit was a simple ceremony attended by Standard Chartered Bank chief executive Annemarie Durbin who signed the memorandum of agreement formalizing the SCB credit card partnership with SOS Children's Village. She also turned over SCB's check donation to the SOS Village national director Bienvenido Delgado and Helmut Kutin, president of SOS Children's Villages-International visiting the Philippines at the time of SCB's community outreach.

Standard Chartered's Learning Center at SOS Iloilo is expected to be completed soon, and will become another beneficiary of the "Books Around the World" campaign.

'Sleepers' and a generous mileage program sell this airline



ASIANA offers first class passengers sleeper seats that recline to 180 degrees with distance between seats of 80 inches.

FIRST class and business class passengers enjoy a wide selection of wine and food choices that are available throughout the long flight to the United States.

FIRST class and business class passengers can avail of the use of lounges operated by either Asiana or one of its partners where they can refresh or do last-minute duties before boarding a flight.

ESTABLISHED just 11 years ago, Asiana has one of the youngest fleets with an on-time reliability record of over 99 percent.

SLEEPER beds, a generous mileage program, good cuisine and in-flight entertainment are what Asiana Airlines, Korea's second national carrier, put in place to get business travelers to take its flights.

Asiana Airlines boasts of being the only airline that provides sleeper beds in its first-class cabin. The seats recline to 180 degrees, compared to the average recline of only 135 degrees while the pitch or distance between seats is 80 inches compared to 60 inches for most airlines.

There are only 12 seats in the first-class section or two seats on each side. Passengers who can afford to pay three times the ticket of the economy class are provided with their own entertainment facilities.

There is a personal video for non-stop viewing of popular movies, the latest sports events and detailed flight information.

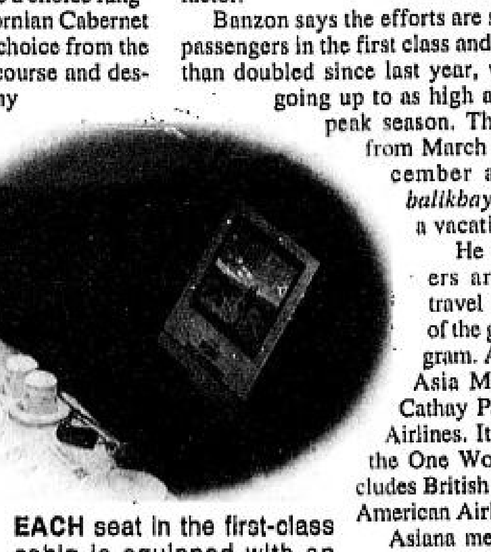
Rene Banzon, Asiana assistant general manager, says in an interview that the first-class amenities offered by other international airlines compare to its business class facilities. The seats in the business class cabin have a 135-degree recline and a pitch of 60 inches.

As for food, business class and first-class passengers are treated to what Asiana claims to be the finest wine list on air. Passengers have a choice ranging from a Chateau Talbot to a Californian Cabernet Sauvignon. They can also have their choice from the menu which include cheeses, main course and dessert. They can have their food at any time they want.

"Many of our passengers tell us that they like our first-class service which is why they keep coming back. Some even rearrange their schedule just so they can get a seat in the first-class cabin.

Asiana Airlines currently flies to the US through Seoul six times a week or everyday except Friday. It has a pending application with the Civil Aeronautics Board to increase the frequency within the next few months.

Banzon says Asiana has stepped up its campaign to increase its share of the passengers traveling first class last year. It tied up with travel agents with corporate accounts to beef up its load factor.



EACH seat in the first-class cabin is equipped with an individual entertainment system for non-stop viewing of movies and sports events.

Banzon says the efforts are starting to pay off as passengers in the first class and business class more than doubled since last year, with the load factor going up to as high as 98 percent during peak season. The peak season runs from March to August, and December and January when *balikbayans* come home for a vacation.

He says business travelers are also attracted to travel with Asiana because of the generous mileage program. Asiana is a member of Asia Miles which includes Cathay Pacific and Singapore Airlines. It is also a member of the One World Alliance that includes British Airways, Qantas and American Airlines.

Asiana members can pool their points so that at least one member of the family will get the chance to fly for free. Family members from the grandparents to the grandchild can pool points.

"We will further expand the market base of members by giving more privileges to cardholders through tie-ups with local establishments, giving free miles in connection with our promotions on the Web. Our mileage program has become the easiest to apply for and maintain since there is no expiration on the card," Banzon says.

Asiana is also considering offering VIP gold cards to potential passengers to encourage them to try Asiana.

Asiana is one of the younger airlines operating Boeing 747-400s for the transPacific routes. These are only about three years old and are rated as among the most safe among Boeing's customers.

It is owned by Korea's Kumho group, one of the region's most diversified conglomerates with interests in synthetic rubber, resort development, building construction, auto supplies, lighting and ground transportation.

It is also proud of its on-time reliability record, with an on-time record of 99.81 percent.

"We will push to improve our schedules so that we can connect to more destinations. We hope to connect to 11 points in Japan, nine points in China, several cities in Russia and possibly Europe by April this year," Banzon says.

Tina Arceo-Dumlao

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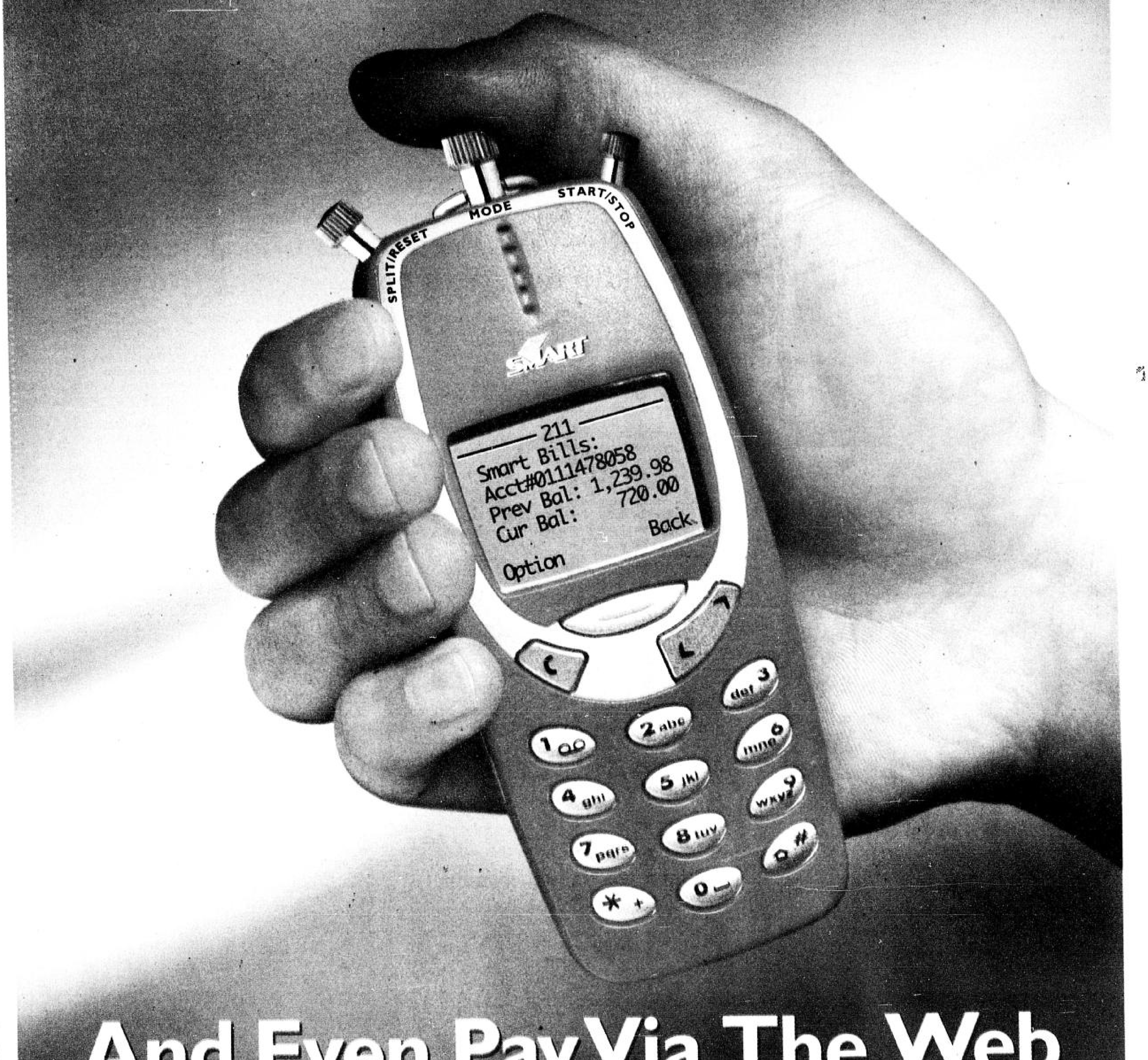

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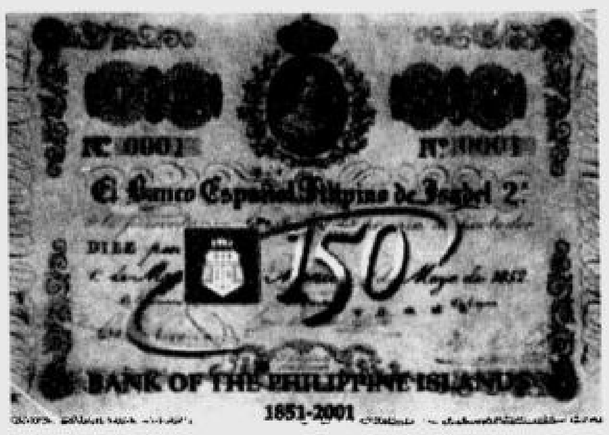
People, Events & Products

REZ GOPEZ-SINDAC, Editor

BPI issues commemorative stamp, postal card


El Banco Español Filipino de Isabel 2ª
150
BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS
1851-2001

IN CELEBRATION of its 150th year, the Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI) will be issuing a commemorative stamp and postal card depicting the first banknote in the Philippines called "pesos fuertes" on Jan. 30, 2001.

BPI was established in 1851 on the strength of a royal decree issued by the Spanish Crown. It was then known as Banco Español Filipino de Isabel II and became the first bank in the Philippines as well as in Southeast Asia II. It subsequently issued the "pesos fuertes" or strong pesos, which symbolized the material affluence of the country at the time. The "pesos fuertes" were indeed strong in terms of value, for they were redeemable in gold or silver Mexican coins.

BPI introduced branch banking, financed the first train service, the first telephone system, the first electric power utility, and the first steamship service in the country. Throughout the Spanish and American periods, BPI kept its tradition of leadership in Philippine banking. Later, BPI pioneered in electronic banking in the Philippines, having introduced the BPI Express Teller through the country's first truly operational ATM network, and, most recently, the BPI Express Cash.

A philatelic exhibit highlighting rare stamps depicting banking and business during the three important periods in Philippine history namely the Spanish era, Commonwealth period and the Japanese Occupation are also forthcoming. The exhibit will feature choice stamp collections of member of the International Philippine Philatelic Society and the Philippine Philatelic Federation and from the Philippine Postal Corporation's Philatelic Museum.

For additional information, call the Corporate Communications Department at 816-9436/845-5110/816-9538.

PANA 12TH GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEET, ELECTION

The Philippine Association of National Advertisers (PANA) presented a plaque of appreciation to Bombo Radyo Philippines for sponsoring PANA's 12th general membership meeting and election in an angel party at Dusit Hotel Nikko recently. Shown are (from left) PANA executive director Nonie S. Azarcon, PRO Gina R. Vistusio of WG&A (Superferry), treasurer Cergen D. Go of Swedish Match Philippines, secretary Gigi B. Rodriguez of Citibank, N.A. director Beth B. Flores of Ott Louie Philippines, vice president Susie Achacoso-Cruz of Godiva, Inc., president Angelica P. Sulza of Golden ABC, Inc. (Penshoppe), Bombo Radyo research and development director George Castro, director Jun Alcantara of Asia Brewery, director Atoy D. Babasa of Andersons Group and director Nestor B. Nisperos of Cable Technology Asia Corporation.

"WHAT BIG MINDS NEED"
HANDS

HALLMARK CARDS SUPPORT L'IL HANDS

Filstar Distributors Corporation, distributors of Hallmark Cards, sponsored the L'il Hands Art Contest organized by Amalgamated Specialties Corporation (Amspec). The contest was held during the L'il Hands Club Fun Day last December at the Festival Supermall. Filstar gave away P1,000 worth of Hallmark Cards products to the 12 winners and consolation prizes to all child participants. Shown are (from left) Riza Abian, Amspec business development officer; Roberto Dimayuga, Amspec marketing manager; Mari Hautea, Filstar senior brand manager; Ron Teng, Filstar research and communications group head and Christine Ko, Filstar ad and promo coordinator.

New Philips WAP-enabled phone lets us explore the magic of the wireless world

TECHNOLOGY has changed the way we live and communicate. In today's fast-paced world, the need to be connected has become a necessity. Being mobile is the key.

With this in mind, convergent techniques are no doubt making our lives easy. Boundaries between a telephone, a computer, a personal organizer or an entertainment tool are blurring dramatically.

Philips, a company committed to making things better for the future is continuously offering solutions to the ergonomic puzzle of convergence. In its newest offering, the WAP-enabled AZ@LIS 218 mobile phone, Philips tries to answer the need to be connected, to create a sense of belongingness even in virtual communities, yet maintaining that human touch of individuality.

The phone with its built-in Wap compliance, lets users gain unlimited access, any time and place, to information, entertainment and other communication opportunities available in the Internet such as World Wide Web (WWW) and email. By just clicking the specially dedicated key @, you'll get connected instantly.

Ergonomically speaking, the AZ@LIS us designed with the users in mind. Heading its list of features is Philips' signature Voice Application Technology – Voice Dial and Voice Command. Simply program up to five voice tags to your selected command functions and you can now access them with just your voice.

Navigation wise, AZ@LIS 218 has Philips' unique award-winning carousel menu interface which gives users far superior navigation control of the phone's features than a conventional, vertical scrolling text menu.

The navigation key, placed centrally under the screen allows users to scroll through the available options with fingertip simplicity.

The phone is also equipped with fun games and 50 cute emotion icons which users can add to their communications when sending SMS to friends.

Customizable features are at hand to enhance comfort factor. Users can adjust the size of text and graphic icons for easy reading while the large 5-line LCD screen and adjustable contrast control increases visual comfort.

And of course size matters. AZ@LIS, with its comfort form and weight of just about 98 grams fit the hands snugly.

AZ@LIS is beautiful inside out. Its high quality finish on both front and back panels in three earthly colors – Savannah Brown, Ocean blue, and Arctic Grey – gives the phone that distinct sleek and no-nonsense look that benefits the taste of discerning users.

Other great features include T9™ text software, vibra-alert functions and if you're musically inclined you can even compose you own ringing tone.

With these great features packed-all-in in AZ@LIS 218, Philips is sure to be at the forefront of welcoming the tekkie generation into the web of the wireless world.

TARGUS LAUNCHING

Targus, the leading maker of carrying cases, recently introduced its new range of mobile accessory products at the EDSA Shangri-La Hotel. Peripheral Solutions, Inc. (PSI), an authorized distributor, spearheaded the event.). Targus offers a wide range of mobile accessory options such as the USB optical mini-mouse, numeric keypad and port replicator, mini CD-ROM drive, phone connectors, auto/air power adaptors and notebook cable locks that come with alarms. Present at the launch are (from left) Richard Esteban, Targus product supervisor, PSI; William de Souza, Targus general manager, Asia Pacific Region; Nina Infortuno, account director, MGM Adv. And Nonette Moraleda, PSI sales and marketing manager.

Moldex sponsors kids' day

MOLDEX Realty Marketing Inc. invites schools and youth oriented groups to join "Kids Can!," a one-day friendly competition for children at the Ecopolis Theatre of Metrogate Silang Estates in Silang, Cavite on Feb. 8.

Children will vie for prizes in contests that include a marathon across the theatre oval, parlor games and a quiz bee. The competition will also include schools. The school with the most number of points will receive prizes courtesy of Moldex. "Kids Can!" stems from the company's belief in the child as an individual who can make things happen, and in its thrust of creating communities that are ideal for the development of children.

Moreover, use of Ecopolis Theatre will also be offered for free in summer.

The Ecopolis Theatre is a perfect venue for graduation ceremonies, sports festivals, performances and concerts. The place has a naturally cool climate, being only a few minutes away from Tagaytay.

Those interested to join "Kids Can!" can call the Ecopolis Theatre at 832-7777 and look for Celeste.

CEU alumni resets homecoming

THE CENTRO Escolar University Alumni Foundation grand alumni reunion has been reset for Feb. 17, 2001 6 p.m. at the Grand Ballroom of the Manila Hotel. The theme of this year's activity is "CEU Alumni: Building Bridges to the World." Program of activities will include a holy Mass, followed by the conferring of the CEU distinguished and outstanding alumni awards, and socials among others. For details, call the CEU Alumni Foundation at 735-9405 or 735-6861 local 249 and look for Rizabelle Tayag or Lourdes Hankins.

MOTOROLA
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ENTERTAINMENT BREAKTHROUGH

Motorola Communications Philippines Inc. and Ayala Land Inc. brought state-of-the-art live performance to the mall, called "Onstage Greenbelt." This new multi-purpose venue is another breakthrough in providing quality entertainment from the country's young and top performing artists. Signing the agreement are (from left) Rolly Duenas, administrative manager for Ayala Cinemas and Onstage Greenbelt; Dave Rafael, assistant vice president of Ayala Land Inc.; Nobel Tieng, personal communication sector country manager for Motorola Communications Philippines and Cathy Bengzon, advertising and promotions manager for Ayala Land Inc.

CABALEN TO OPEN IN STA. LUCIA MALL

Cabalen's second franchise outlet at Sta. Lucia Grand East Mall in Cainta, Rizal is now under construction. Shown during the turnover of operations manual and franchise agreement signing are (from left) Maritel O. Nievera, Cabalen president and CEO; franchisee Milagros Robles, a Sta. Lucia Mall executive; Antonio Robles and Cabalen executive Ian N. Tiongson. Cabalen Sta. Lucia, which will open in April is the eighth in the Cabalen chain of restaurants. The franchise outlet is situated at the Brickroad Area outside the Sta. Lucia Grand East Mall along Felix Avenue, Marcos Higway, Cainta, Rizal.

SMART INAUGURATES SM CEBU TELECENTER

Wireless services leader Smart Communications Inc. recently inaugurated its 74th telecenter in SM Cebu, Cebu City. This is the first mall telecenter outside Metro Manila that integrates Smart's new telecenter concept. Leading the ribbon cutting ceremony of the Smart SM Cebu mall telecenter inauguration are (from left) Cebu City Mayor Alvin Garcia, Smart president and CEO Napoleon L. Nazareno and Esperanza Garcia, wife of Cebu Governor Pablo Garcia.

INQUIRER
TRIVIA
By BONG BARRAMEDA

Cool catch

Q. Why do supermarkets put meat and milk at the back of the store? It is because it's cooler there and out of direct sunlight from the front windows?

A. There's a definite reason, but it's neither of those. The temperature in a supermarket is roughly the same throughout because of air-conditioning. Direct sunlight would cause deterioration of almost any product, so stores keep all their wares out of it. The reason why meat and dairy products are at the back of the store is that they are among the most commonly bought foods. Thus, while you're walking the full length of the supermarket, twice, you have to pass many other 'tempting' products. To maximize the number of products that you have to pass, the front doors rarely open onto the central aisle. So, you go down one of the other aisles to get to the meat or milk, and come back along the widest, easiest, central aisle. A neat strategy designed to persuade you to part with more of your money.

Classified Odd. One March morning in Harlem, New York City in 1990, James Innis and Tyrone Thomas decided to rob a supermarket of $207. Two police officers saw them running away and cornered Innis with their patrol car. Innis tried to jump a metal fence, but got stuck and ended up hanging upside down by his pants. When his pants ripped apart and fell off, Innis fell to the ground. He jumped up and tried to run, but found himself surrounded by twenty policemen. The fence he had tried to jump led to the backyard of a precinct police station.

Take a Tip. While away from home, keep your leg pants smooth by laying them between the mattress and the springs and press them as you sleep. Or hang them in a steamy bathroom. (Don't forget to pack clothespins for converting ordinary hangers into pant hangers.)

WORD WATCH

Sastre : from the Spanish *sastre*, 'tailor.'

PDI – February 4, 2001

Sweet Nothings

This Valentine season, tell the world how much that special someone means to you—by writing that heartfelt love note in the widest read and circulated broadsheet in the Philippines. The INQUIRER now accepts personal ads for the Feb. 14-issue dedicated especially to those you hold dearest to your heart, at a discounted rate of **P55** per line or **P165** per col. cm.

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Message of Thanks

Atty. ROMAN FILOMENO "Rofi" V. JACINTO

UP LLB Class '59, UP MPA '55

Who died in the Grace of our Lord on 19 January 2001 at the age of 66, Dagupan City.

His wife **Lourdes "Lulu" Fernandez-Jacinto**; children **Barbara Beatrix "Babette"** and **Andres Alipio Crescente "Alan"**; father **Andres** (†); mother **Lourdes "Deding"** (†); father-in-law **Alipio** (†); mother-in-law **Fredesvinda "Fredes"** (†); brothers **Adventor "Ven"** (†), **Rev. Fr. Andres Dimas "Di"**; sisters **Maria Lourdes "Marie"**, **Rosie**; brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, uncles, aunts, nephews, nieces, cousins, relatives and friends with to convey their deepest gratitude and appreciation to all those who showered love and concern, offered comfort, extended support and condoled with them in their moment of sorrow by way of their presence, prayers, donations, flowers, notes of sympathy and many other countless ways.

May the Good Lord continue to bless you all!

"... absent with the body to be present with the Lord."
2 Corinthians 5:8

Our Beloved Papa

JOHN STRONG FELIX

June 27, 1938 -- February 01, 2001

Now peacefully rest in the infinite Grace and Goodness of the Lord on the 1st of February 2001 at the age of 62.

His wife **Auring**; children **Dolly**, **Joseph**, **Jesyl**, **Arlene**, **Dick**, **Dinky** and **Zaldy**; grandchildren **Arman**, **Allan**, **Adrianne**, **Joan**, **Joyce**, **Jay**, **Chin**, **Miguel** and **Carlo**; siblings **Bobby**, **Sonny**, **Frank**, **Emy**, **Mary**, **Thelma**, **Jake**, **Ramona** and **Monina**; his nephews and nieces request the kind readers to please pray for his eternal rest.

His body lies in state at the Presidential Suite, Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Cremation will be announced later.

"He left us all with his legacy, a humble, simple life, a responsible father, and an ample provider, dedicated to his work."

ATTY. ALFREDO "FREDDIE" OCAMPO FELIZARDO, SR.

Of Taytay, Rizal

September 27, 1932 - February 2, 2001

His loving wife **Josefina** (†); his bereaved children **James** and **Malou**, **Alfredo Jr.**, **Armand "Jojo"** and **Polly**, **Albert** and **Sharon**, **Jon-Jon** and **Tina**; grandchildren **Louise**, **Jamme**, **Audrey**, **Arianne**, **Angeline**, **Carlo**, **Diego**, **Paulo** and **Sushi**; sister **Zenaida F. Leonardo**; brother-in-law **Juan**; sister-in-law **Cynthia** and **Lydia**; nephews and nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body now lies in state at the family residence at 181 Rizal Avenue, Taytay, Rizal. Interment will be on Tuesday, February 6, 2001 at 3:00 PM at Taytay Municipal Cemetery after the 2:00 PM Mass at the St. John de Baptist Parish, Taytay, Rizal.

So dearly missed,
So lovingly remembered

On the First Death Anniversary of

ANDREA RODRIGUEZ ILAO

who joined her Creator on February 5, 2000

We find strength and we are humbly grateful to God in knowing that Inay touched so many lives in her concern for others. She will continue living on in our hearts and through the lives we lead as testament to her legacy of Love.

We invite our relatives and friends to remember her in prayers.

Masses shall be offered and celebrated at the following churches on February 4 & 5, 2001:

Nasugbu Catholic Cemetery	Feb. 05, 8:00 AM
Johndel Beach Resort - Nasugbu, Batangas	Rosary 10:00 AM Family Mass 6:00 PM
St. Francis Javier Church Nasugbu, Batangas	Feb. 4, 6:00 AM 9:00 AM 5:30 PM Feb. 5, 6:00 AM
Nuestra Señora de la Paz Central, Nasugbu, Batangas	Feb. 4, 7:30 AM Feb. 5, 5:00 PM
San Juan Bautista Church Lian, Batangas	Feb. 4, 6:00 AM Feb. 5, 6:30 AM
Immaculate Concepcion Church Balayan, Batangas	Feb. 4, 5:30 AM 8:00 AM 5:00 PM Feb. 5, 5:15 AM
San Sebastian Cathedral Church Lipa City	Feb. 5, 6:00 AM
St. Anthony Church Bolbok, Lipa City	Feb. 4, 7:00 AM
Our Lady of the Airways Parish NAIA, Pasay City	Feb. 4, 8:00 AM Feb. 5, 6:00 PM
Mother of Perpetual Help Baclaran	Feb. 4, 6:00 AM Feb. 5, 6:45 AM
Our Lady of Peace Parish Sucat, Parañaque City	Feb. 5, 6:30 PM
Sto. Niño Church Every Mon. - Sat. Sto. Niño, Parañaque City Every Sundays	6:00 PM 8:00 AM
Our Lady of Guadalupe Concorde Village, Parañaque City	Feb. 3, 6:00 PM
St. Anthony Church Tamuning, Guam	Feb. 4, 11:00 AM Feb. 5, 7:00 PM Followed shortly by the rosary Refreshments will be served after the rosary
San Vicente/St. Victor Church Barrigada, Guam	Feb. 5, 6:00 PM
Sta. Barbara Church Dededo, Guam	Feb. 5, 7:00 PM
St. Joachim Church Hayward, California	Jan. 30, 8:00 AM Feb. 5, 8:00 AM
St. Annes Church Morton, Texas	Feb. 5, 8:00 AM
St. Victor Church San Jose, California	Feb. 3, Night Masses Feb. 4, All Day Masses
St. John Vianney Catholic Church Florida	Feb. 5, 7:00 AM
Queen of All Saints Concorde, California	Feb. 5, 8:00 AM
St. Mary's Cathedral San Francisco, California	Feb. 5, 8:00 AM
Muelheim Kapelle Koln, Germany	Feb. 5, 8:30 AM
St. Gross Martin Church Altermart, Koln Germany	Jan. 28, 5:00 PM
St. John Church San Jose, California	Feb. 5, 8:30 AM

Nothing that is loved is lost, and no one who has ever touched a heart.... can really pass away..

WE LOVE YOU INAY

JAIME C. GUZMAN

of Victoria, Tarlac

Peacefully joined his Creator on 1st February, 2001 at the age of 74

wishes to inform relatives and friends that his body lies in state at Chapel B-5 La Funeraria Paz, Inc. G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Cremation will be on Tuesday, February 6, 2001 at 9:00 a.m.

FRANCISCO BORDADOR SANTOS

Peacefully joined his Creator on February 3, 2001 at the age of 68.

His bereaved wife **JOSIE**; children **TERESA**, **TETA** (†), **JUNIOR**, **ROBERT**, **RICKY**, **ROLY**, **PHINE**, **LYN**, **LENGLENG** and **JOVI**; sisters **ATE URSULA** and **BELEN**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for his eternal happiness in heaven.

His remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapel, 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be announced later.

"From darkness let the light shine!"
Genesis 1:3

VICENTE BATTUNG CO

Died in the Grace of our Lord on February 2, 2001 at the age of 70

He is survived by his bereaved wife **Edna**; children **Margaret**, **Catherine**, **Henry** and **George**; grandchildren **Elza Kristen**, **Krysta Antionette**, **Julian Lorenzo**, **Oliver Allen**, **Henry Jr.**, **Kim Julianne**, **Miguel Lorenzo**, **Manuel Antonio**; son-in-law **Julian**; daughter-in-law **Victoria**.

His remains lie in state at Nacional Memorial Homes (Chapel 3-A) 264 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, February 10, 2001 at Himlayang Pilipino Memorial Park after the 7:00 a.m. Mass.

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Belen Sebastian Mariano

January 22, 1925 -- February 02, 2001

Her loving husband **Edilberto**; children **Evie** and **Demy**, **Belen** and **Wolf**, **Ed** and **Diane**, **Sam** and **Bernadeth**, grandchildren **Elaine**, **Bing**, **Caloy**, **Abie**, **Marc**, **Shalou**, **Sambi**, **Daniel**, and **Christian**, great grandchild **Chiqui**; nieces **Lourdes** and **Carol**; nephew **Eduardo**; cousin **Anastacio Sebastian** and family; other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the St. John Chapel of Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, along Sucat Road, Parañaque City.

Cremation will be on February 04, 2001, 2:00 p.m. at the Manila Memorial Park Crematory.

"I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are Yours."

John 17:9

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COMMUNITY AND FAMILY SERVICES INTERNATIONAL

a Philippine-based social development organization proactively addressing the needs of uprooted persons and others in exceptionally difficult circumstances urgently seeks experienced personnel for its forthcoming project in Mindanao

7 Community Organizers/ 1 Research Specialist/ 1 Communication Specialist/ 3 Administrative Staff/ 1 Finance staff

- Must be residents of Mindanao and must be willing to be based in Cotabato City and Maguindanao;
- Preferably speaks the local dialect of Maguindanao aside from being fluent in Tagalog, Cebuano or Ilonggo;
- Development work experience of at least 4 years;
- At least 25 years of age;
- Computer literate;
- Must possess a caring and relational spirit, and willing to work long hours; and
- Committed to trail blazing alternative solutions in the care of uprooted people and rebuilding of their lives.

Community Organizers:
- A graduate of Social Work, Community Development, or any Social Science Course;
- A Graduate of CO trainings given by the CO Multiversity, or COPE and of the Philippine Community Organizers (PHILCOS); and
- With relevant experience in the following specialization; livelihood generating projects, Awareness and Peace Education, Disaster Management, Rural and Upland Integrated Area Development.

Research Specialist:
- A graduate of B.S. in Sociology, Community Development with relevant experience in Action - research projects, process documentation of community participation, CO approach, community baseline profiling, issues/ case studirs;
- Able to work with Network and linkage with government and NGOs; and
- Able to train, conduct research orientation/ briefings with communities.

Communication Specialist:
- Preferably a graduate of Development Communications;
- With Exceptional writing skill;
- Knowledgeable in desktop publishing and development of information, education and communication materials; and
- Excellent human relations skills, wide reader on aspects related to Development and of Mindanao.

Psychosocial Specialist:
- A graduate of Behavioral Sciences with at least 4 years experience in providing psychosocial support to uprooted communities;
- With good communication and writing skills; and
- Able to conduct community and family-based training in Psychosocial interventions.

Administrative Assistant:
- A graduate of any four-year course with good command of English language; and
- With excellent interpersonal relations.

Finance Officer:
- A graduate of Bachelor of Science in Accountancy; preferably a CPA;
- With strong leadership, management and finance skills; and
- Preferably with an NGO background.

Qualified parties should send by February 18, 2001 a letter of application and resumé to:

The Executive Director
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- ➪ Not more than 35 years old

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HRD-L & K Industries Philippines, Inc.
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MA Roxas Highway Clarkfield, Pampanga
Tel. # 599-5136 to 40
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Apply in person or mail your application with Transcript of Records and 2x2 ID picture not later than February 9, 2001 at:

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corner EDSA, Quezon City

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* UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER (UMC) first group of Filipino RNs and their dependents with immigrant working visas are scheduled to depart for the U.S.A. on Feb. 20, 2001

NOTICE TO ALL UMC CANDIDATES ALREADY UNDER-PROCESSED BY IPAMS

ATTEND ON FEBRUARY 10TH (SAT) AT 1:00 P.M. AT IPAMS FOR ORIENTATION AND DISCUSSION WITH UMC AND INTERSTAFF REPRESENTATIVES.

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Mr. John Gover *of* INTERSTAFF, INC., a full service staffing provider based in Houston, Texas, will be in Manila together with Mesdames Joyce Timmons and Coleen Smith of UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER commencing Feb. 12th thru 15th to identify qualified candidates.

To take advantage of this opportunity, Metro Manila candidates must personally apply asap or no later than February 13, 2001 by submitting comprehensive resume, school records (diploma, transcript of records), board rating, training certificates, employment credentials, plus two (2) passport photographs to.

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- ☑ proficiency in MS Office a must
- ☑ not more than 28 years old
- ☑ well-organized and able to work under pressure

Interested applicants may apply in person and for interview on **February 5, 2001 (1 day only) 9:00 AM to NO KA OI PHILS. INTERNATIONAL INC., Unit 406 Richville Corporate Center, 1314 Commerce Avenue, Madrigal Business Park, Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City.** Please bring your Resumé, Transcript of Records, 2x2 picture, NBI Clearance.

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Want to work in the United States with Immigrant Visa Sponsorship and with a salary ranging from US$35 - $44,000 annually?

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3. PRC License
4. Picture page from passport
5. Board Exam rating
6. Transcript of records (nursing school)
7. Resumé with 2 x 2 picture (include your e-mail address)
8. At least one year experience
9. Passing scores for TOEFL & TSE (may apply pending results of TOEFL & TSE)

Mail it to:

Mr. Wilfredo G. Pesquera Jr.
Manager, Career Link
Unit 303 Vicar's 1 Building,
31 Visayas Avenue corner Road 1
Quezon City
(02) 455-4358 / 455-3856
carlink@nsclub.net

You may also contact:

Louise Alegado / Lori Schuetz
IHS-Nurse Advocates
The Presidential Towers
605 W. Madison
Suite 3704 Tower 3
Chicago, Illinois 60661
(312) 775-7759 / (773) 282-8865
www.nurseadvocatesusa.com
loalegado28@hotmail.com

BRENT SCHOOL

INTERNATIONAL

seeks the following:

1. HEAD COOK

Requirements:
- College level with appropriate and related academic or training certificate;
- At least 10 years experience of cooking in a hotel, restaurant or cafeteria serving international cuisine;
- Supervisory and Management skills required;
- Can speak and understand the English language well;
- Preferably male; and
- Must not be more than 40 years old.

2. MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR

Requirements:
- Engineering degree preferably a Civil Engineering graduate;
- At least 3 years experience in maintenance/construction work;
- Has basic understanding of electricity, heating and plumbing;
- Has basic knowledge of safety codes and regulations;
- Supervisory and Management skills required;
- Not more than 40 years old;
- Male; and
- Must be able to communicate well in both oral and written English.

INTERESTED APPLICANTS please send your LETTER OF APPLICATION AND RESUMÉ with REFERENCES to the CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER ON OR BEFORE 26TH FEBRUARY 2001.

By mail: Brent School Baguio, P.O. Box 35, Baguio City 2600
Fax: 074-442-2260/3638
E-mail: brent@bgo.cyberspace.com.ph

Notice for interview will be given ahead of time.
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- ☑ Should possess a passion for sales.
- ☑ Must be hardworking, goal-oriented and with good interpersonal skills.

Interested Applicants are encouraged to apply personally or call.

G/F, San Antonio Building, 7464 Bagtikan Street
San Antonio Village, Makati City
Fax No. 896-3245; Tel. 896-3244/46

(Fresh Graduates are welcome to apply)

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Suite-A 112 State Condominium V. 452 EDSA, Guadalupe, Makati City
Tel. Nos. 8951415 / 8961043 Fax: 8951305 Email: filglobal@zeusnetworx.com
Pls. Bring 2x2 photos, 2 sets of resumé, Employment Certificate, Academic Records and other pertinent documents.

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WANTED IMMEDIATELY

INDUSTRIAL ELECTRICIAN

- Electrical Engineering graduate or with equivalent experience.
- Honest and Hardworking
- Experience preferred but not required

Apply personally and bring your resumé to:

ADVANCE POWER PRODUCTS, INC.
1340 Filmore St., Makati City
(beside Cash & Carry)
Tel. Nos. 843-5556 to 59

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At least 5 years experience in the construction industry. In a position with proven ability to carry out spatial co-ordination of all trades. You will be highly skilled, self-motivated and driven to excel. Overseas experience is an advantage and wishing to stay in the Philippines. Knowledge of spatial co-ordination and CAD preferable.

Send or bring Resumé to:

12/F Sage House, 110 Herrera Street,
Makati City, Metro Manila
Fax: 813-9075 E-mail: forspac@info.com.ph

An Automotive Interior Manufacturing Company is urgently in need of:

ACCOUNTING MANAGER

- Male or Female
- Not more than Forty years old
- Accounting graduate and must be a CPA
- At least five years accounting work experience
- Ideally gained in a manufacturing company
- Honest and with strong sense of responsibility
- Can work well with management team members, internally and in the client side
- Computer literate

EXECUTIVE DRIVER/ MESSENGER

- At least High School graduate
- 25 to 38 years old
- With 2 years experience as company drive
- Familiar with Metro Manila
- Knowledgeable in troubleshooting
- At least 5'6" in height and in good physical condition
- Resident of Makati and Manila has an advantage

Please handcarry or mail your comprehensive resumé, 2x2 picture and a photocopy of Transcript of Records not later than February 15 to:

Admin & HRD Department
111 Commerce Road, Phase 2
Industrial Zone, Laguna Technopark
Biñan, Laguna

---

unicef

United Nations Children's Fund

SR. PROJECT ASSISTANT - MONITORING

Assist the Information Resource Management Officer in the installation and maintenance of databases to monitor and evaluate indicators related to women and children. Assist in organizing surveys and gathering, consolidating, and analyzing data and translate these data to briefing materials, updates, and other reports needed for Regional and Headquarter's reporting requirements. Prepare human interest stories which will be used for resource mobilization and advocacy.

Seven years progressively responsible experience in statistics, social research, popularizing research results, and training preferably related to social development work. Also, a university degree in statistics, communication with specialized training in statistical research. Very good communications skills. Excellent computer skills.

Please RUSH application letter together with bio-data to the Operations Officer, UNICEF, P.O. Box 1076 MCPO, 1250 Makati City. Closing date for application is 16 February 2001. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for interview.

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Applications from qualified women are encouraged.

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2/F Tesoro Building, 1016 Arnaiz Avenue
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with knowledge and experience in medical equipment.
male or female; interested party please call **3309220**

JOB ONLINE

RUSH!!!!!!

ACCOUNT OFFICER - Female, 20-35 yrs. old, Marketing graduate, and with sales experience
RETAIL SALES ASSISTANT - Female, 18-25 yrs. old, College graduate and with good communication skills
PRODUCTION PLANNING SUPERVISOR - Male/Female, 35 below, with related working experience

FOR IMMEDIATE OPENING

- **ACCOUNTING CLERKS** - Female, 30 below, Accounting graduate and with experience
- **ACCOUNTANT** - Male/Female, 35 below, with CPA experience
- **FOOD ATTENDANTS** - Female, 25 below, at least 5'4", with pleasing personality and experience
- **BANQUET WAITERS** - 27 below, 5'7", pleasing personality, and experienced
- **NURSE** - Female, 28 below, 5'3", computer literate and with license
- **COOK** - Male 35 below, and with experience
- **CARPENTERS** - 35 below, and with experience
- **PAINTERS** - 35 below, and with experience
- **STEWARDS** - 30 below, and with experience
- **VALET PARKERS** - Male, 5'7", pleasing personality, and with experience
- **PRODUCTION OPERATORS** - Female/Male, 18-22 yrs. old, High School graduate College level, Vocational graduate

Interested applicants, please apply at:

CORPORATE VISIONS, INC.
Room 4-B, 4th Floor St. Jude Building, 1020 Gen. Malvar Street, Malate
Tel. No. 526-4837

French multinational company is looking for a

FLAVORS ACCOUNT MANAGER

- Male/Female
- Not more than 35 years old
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- Dynamic
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- Pleasant personality

Please send your resumé and 2x2 photo to:

MANE PHILIPPINES
Mr. Philippe CLAYETTE
19th Floor, Orient Square Building
Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center
1600 Pasig City, Philippines
Fax No.: 633-2511

*** NEEDED IMMEDIATELY ***

"PRODUCTION MANAGER"

QUALIFICATIONS:

1. MALE;
2. With impressive and wide experienced in uPVC—Production Operations; Preferably in an ISO-DTI Certified companies;
3. A graduate of Engineering or other related courses; Preferably a Chinese speaking officer;
4. With good moral character/credentials.

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CONTACT/BRING NECESSARY PAPERS:

NELSON C. ONG
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Qualifications:
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Pls. call 456-2446
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Submit your resumé to:

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287 Cravings Center Katipunan
Loyola Heights, Quezon City
or e-mail
marketing@cravingsgroup.com

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IS IN NEED OF:

- **ACCTG. GRAD.**
- **DESIGNER/FINE ARTS GRAD.**
- **PROMO GIRLS COLLEGE LEVEL**

CALL 361-2188/
362-4449

Preschool Teachers

Needed in Las Piñas. Preferably Education or with Education units or any related courses.

Please submit your resumé at

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Verdant Acres
Subd., Las Piñas
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AT:HENRY BUTCHER AUCTION CENTER
Bldg. #7 VRCC Road, Veterans Center, Taguig, Metro Manila
ON: Tuesday, 06th February 2001 at 10:30am Prompt
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PURECHEM CORPORATION

is urgently looking for:

WAREHOUSE SUPERVISOR

- Male/Female, 25 to 35 years old
- College graduate, preferably with experience in inventory-keeping and warehousing
- Has excellent oral and written communication skills
- Computer literate (Windows/MS-Office, a must)

SALES STAFF

- Female, single
- 25 to 35 years old
- College graduate, preferably with experience in Sales or Marketing
- Has excellent oral and written communication skills
- Computer literate (Windows/MS-Office, a must)

Interested applicants may call at 253-6136.
Look for RACHELLE
You may fax your resumé at 253-5920.

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

DENTAL SALES REPS

- male or female, not over 35 years old
- college graduate
- preferably experienced in selling dental and orthodontic supplies

We offer salary plus commission commensurate to qualifications.

Please apply in person with resumé, 2x2 photo and other pertinent documents at:

AHESCOR
5029 Filmore Street, Palanan, Makati City
Tel. No. 551-4680

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
BOARD OF INVESTMENTS
Industry and Investments Building
385 Gil J. Puyat Avenue
Makati City, Philippines

Fax. No. 895-83-22
895-40-24

Tel. Nos.: 897-66-82
895-39-67

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the application of ANECO COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION with address at #37 Judge Juan Luna Street, San Francisco del Monte, Quezon City for registration with the Board of Investments under Book I of the Omnibus Investments Code of 1987, otherwise known as E.O. 226, as Amended as NEW IT SERVICE FIRM in the Field of International Call Center at a capacity of: 800 seats at the end of 5 years and with proposed project site at No. 10 Resthaven Street, San Francisco del Monte, Quezon City has been officially accepted on 29 January 2001 and is currently being processed.

Any person with valid objections to or pertinent comments on the above-mentioned application may file his/her objection, in writing under oath, with the BOI within one (1) week from the date of this publication.

(Sgd.) C.O. ANGELES
Director
Legal Services Department

(PDI – Feb. 4, 2001)

PNOC COAL CORPORATION
Building 2, Energy Center, Merritt Road,
Fort Bonifacio,Taguig, Metro Manila
Telephone Nos. 893-1320/893-6001 Fax No. (632) 817-1241

INVITATION TO BID

The PNOC Coal Corporation (PNOC-CC) invites prequalified accredited contractors to submit sealed bids for the:

SECURITY SERVICES FOR PCC NAGA COAL TERMINAL (PCC 00-023 B3)

Bid documents may be secured from the Administrative Department (c/o Mr. George N. Alejandro) starting February 1, 2001 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PESOS: Five Hundred (P500.00).

Sealed bids in two (2) sets shall be received by the Administrative Department not later than 2:00 o'clock p.m. of February 20, 2001 and then publicly opened at 2:30 p.m. of the same date at the above address.

For the purpose of clarifying certain issues, a pre-bid conference will be held on **February 12, 2001, 2:00 p.m. at the PNOC-CC Conference Room, Building 2, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila.**

PNOC-CC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, or to accept such bids or to award any part of the work to any bidder/s whose bid/s is/are considered most advantageous to PNOC-CC.

(Sgd.) FERNANDO C. VILLANUEVA
Chairman
Prequalification, Bidding and Awards Committee

(PDI - Feb 4 2001)

The Foundation for the Advancement of Montessori Education in the Philippines

(FAMEP)

is honored to announce the offering of a Montessori Primary (ages 3-6) Teacher Training Course in cooperation with the Montessori Institute of Denver, Colorado, USA*.

The course will be held in Manila, Philippines over three summers, beginning in April/May 2001. Director of Training is Ms. Elizabeth Hall, currently the Director of Primary Training at the Montessori Institute of Denver. Alternate Trainer is Ms. Judi Orion, Director of Training for the Assistants to Infancy Training Course at the Montessori Institute of Denver. Course Coordinator for Manila is Ms. Patria Judith Gonzalez.

FAMEP invites all interested persons and educational institutions to take advantage of this groundbreaking opportunity to attend an internationally recognized AMI accredited teacher training course right here in Manila.
Please contact the FAMEP office for information, application forms, course requirements, and fees at
Telephone numbers: 645-8642, 810-6613, 810-6608
Fax numbers: 810-5331 and 746-4153

FAMEP was founded in 1997 and registered with the Philippine Securities and Exchange Commission in February 1998.

*In affiliation with Association Montessori Internationale (AMI), Amsterdam, Netherlands;
AMI was founded by Dr. Maria Montessori in 1929.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Please be informed that **OMNI 2000, INC.** will be filing its Amended Articles of Incorporation shortening the corporate life of the corporation to 31 May 2000 with the Securities and Exchange Commission on or before **February 9, 2001.**

Those entities or individuals who may have any objections thereto may file their opposition to the application with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

31 January 2001.

(Sgd.) RODINIL D. BUGAY
Corporate Secretary

(PDI - Feb 4 2001)

ANNOUNCEMENT

PLEASE BE INFORMED OF OUR NEW CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING RATES EFFECTIVE **FEBRUARY 1, 2001 ISSUE.**

NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS (National Edition):

Box Ad - P230.00/col. cm.; **Line Ad** - P 65.00/line; **Obituaries** - P230.00/col. cm.

JOB MARKET (Metro Manila Edition): Box Ad - P190.00/col. cm.

Color Surcharge for NC and JM: 1 spot color - 30%; 2 spot color - 60%; Full color - 80%

CLASSIFIED ASSETS: Box Ad - P190.00/col. cm. **(No color surcharge)**

* Rates are VAT exclusive

CAGAYAN II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Rizal St., Aparri, Cagayan
Tel. No. 888-2173
Telefax No. 888-2308

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

A. CAGELCO II is inviting all interested dealers to pre-qualify and to bid for the supply and delivery of the following materials:
DX Transformers, Hardwood Poles, Concrete Poles, Conductors, DX Line Materials.
B. Application for pre-qualification must be submitted to the PBAC Chairman, Mrs. Blandina Y. Madamba at the address given above or may be faxed to the same together with the following pre-qualification requirements: a) BIR-VAT Certificate; b) Business Permit; c) Registration; d) Latest ITR; e) Company Profile; d) List of Clients for a period of three (3) years (if applicable).
C. Deadline for submission, **February 12, 2001.**
D. CAGELCO II reserves the right to reject any/or all bid, waive any defect or informality therein, or accept any bid/s or offer/s which it may consider to be advantageous and beneficial to the cooperative.
E. Pre-conference and Bidding schedules shall be announced to all pre-qualified bidders.
F. Additional information may be furnished upon request.

(Sgd.) **GABRIEL A. TORDESILLAS**
General Manager

Note: For the extension of lateral lines in some barangays within the municipalities of Lallo and Aparri of the province of Cagayan. (Subsidy allocation from Hon. Congressman JACK ENRILE).

(PDI - Jan 28 & Feb 4 2001)

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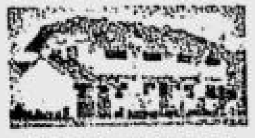

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Tagaytay 477m².cor. Lot with Golfshare 4700/m² 6376847-48

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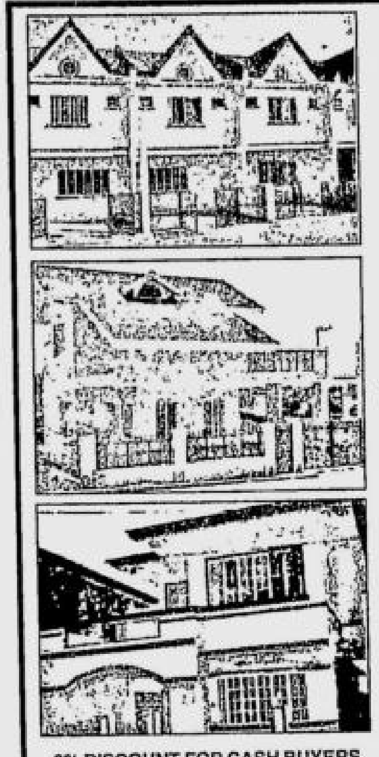

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the estate of the late Antonio T. Nepomuceno was judicially settled by his heirs as per Doc. No. 476; Page No. 96; Book No. 450; Series of 2001 by Atty. Joel G. Gordola of QC (PDI-Jan. 28, Feb. 4, 11, 2001)

Notice that the estate of the late Ma. Trinidad T. Diaz was extrajudicially settled by her heirs as per Doc.#305; Page#61; Book I; Series of 2001 of Atty. Joel T. Pelicano of Pasig City (PDI-2/4, 11, 18, 2001)

NOTICE OF LOSS

• NOTICE OF LOSS •

Notice is hereby given that Stock Certificate No. FMFI 12920, 34423, 45084 & Beneficial-PNB Life Insurance Co. Inc. Nos. 5969, 11434, 18410, 25449, 32464, 37089, 37090 has been reportedly lost. Unless an adverse third-party claim is filed with the office of Beneficial-PNB Life Insurance & Filipinas Mutual Finance,a replacement stock certificate will be issued to PABLO T. GONZALES, the stockholder on record as registered owner of the said lost stock certificates to be transferred to EULOGIA Q. GONZALES, the legal wife of the deceased Pablo T. Gonzales *(PDI-Jan.21.28&Feb.4.2001)*

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that Stock Certificate Nos. FMFI 12920, 34423, 45084 and Beneficial-PNB Life Insurance Co. Inc. Nos. 5969, 11434, 18410, 25449, 32464, 37089, 37090 has been reportedly lost. Unless an adverse third-party claim is filed with the office of Beneficial-PNB Life Insurance & Filipinas Mutual Finance, a replacement stock certificate will be issued to Pablo T. Gonzales, the stockholder on record as registered owner of said lost stock certificate to be transferred to Eulogia Q. Gonzales, the legal wife of the deceased Pablo T. Gonzales (PDI-Jan. 21, 28 and Feb. 4, 2001

PERSONAL

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Date : February 17, 2001 (Saturday)
• 1 p.m. Australia / New Zealand • 2 p.m. USA
• 4 p.m. Canada • 5 p.m. Caregiver
Venue : MAKATI SHANGRI LA, Makati Avenue corner Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Contact Person : INS MIS
Tel. Nos. 891-5686 to 89 / 891-5920 to 21
Fees : P650 Prepaid (per country) or P800 Walk-in (per country)

BUTUAN CITY
Date : February 10, 2001 (Saturday) 2:00 p.m.
Venue : HOTEL KARAGA, Montilla Blvd., Butuan City
Contact Person : Aileen Buque
Tel. Nos. (085) 341 4338
Fees : P650 Prepaid or P850 Walk-in

PAMPANGA
Date : February 10, 2001 (Saturday) 10:00 a.m.
Venue : DAYS HOTEL, Paskuhan Village, San Fernando Pampanga
Contact Person : Claire Pajarillaga
Tel. Nos. : (045) 963-5440, (0918) 910-2684
Fees : P650 Prepaid or P850 Walk-in

BACOLOD CITY
Date : February 17, 2001 (Saturday) 10:00 a.m.
Venue : HOTEL ALHAMBRA, cor. Galo-Locsin Sts., Bacolod City
Contact Person : Christine Ramos
Tel. Nos. (034) 708 3222, 434 4858
Fees : P650 Prepaid or P850 Walk-in

PALAWAN
Date : February 10, 2001 (Saturday) 10:00 a.m.
Venue : THE LEGEND HOTEL, Malvar St., Puerto Princesa City, Palawan
Tel. Nos. : (048) 433-8017; (02) 891-5924; (0917) 466-8097
Fees : P650 Prepaid or P850 Walk-in

MINDORO
Date : February 17, 2001 (Saturday) 2:00 p.m.
Venue : MICROTEL INN & SUITES, Filipiniana Calapan, National Highway, Sto. Niño Calapan City
Contact Person : Jaycee Ele
Tel. Nos. : (043) 288 2624, 288 2630
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• 4 p.m. Canada • 5 p.m. Caregiver
Venue : MAKATI SHANGRI LA

PAMPANGA	PALAWAN	BUTUAN CITY	BACOLOD	MINDORO
Date Feb. 10, 2001 (Sat.) 10:00 a.m.	Date Feb. 10, 2001 (Sat.) 10:00 a.m.	Date Feb. 10, 2001 (Sat.) 2:00 p.m.	Date Feb. 17, 2001 (Sat.) 10:00 a.m.	Date Feb. 17, 2001 (Sat.) 2:00 p.m.
Venue DAYS HOTEL	Venue THE LEGEND HOTEL	Venue HOTEL KARAGA	Venue HOTEL ALHAMBRA	Venue MICROTEL INN & SUITES

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Republic of the Philippines
ENERGY REGULATORY BOARD
San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION FOR AUTHORITY TO ADOPT AND IMPLEMENT SPECIAL RATES AND/OR ECONOMIC RECOVERY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ("ERAP-IV") RATES FOR POWER INTENSIVE AND DISTRESSED INDUSTRIES (PIDI'S) IN THE LUZON, VISAYAS AND MINDANAO GRIDS, WITH PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY

ERB CASE NO. 2001-05

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
(NAPOCOR)
Applicant.
x -- x

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

Notice is hereby given of the filing by applicant National Power Corporation (NAPOCOR) on January 16, 2001 of an application for the authority to adopt and implement special rates and/or economic recovery assistance program ("ERAP-IV") rates for power intensive and distressed industries (PIDIs) in the Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao grids by providing further discount of P0.30/kWh for energy consumption above New Customer Baseline Load (NCBL).

The Board has set the said application for hearing on February 19 and 20, 2001 at nine o'clock (9:00 AM) in the morning at the ERB Hearing Room, 15th Floor, Pacific Center Building, San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Complex, Pasig City.

All interested parties who may wish to comment on or oppose the said application should file their comments and/or oppositions on or before the date of initial hearing. Such parties who may wish to have the details of the application and who shall have manifested to the Board their desire and intention to participate actively in the proceedings may request that before the date of initial hearing, they be furnished with copies of the application by the applicant, which is hereby directed to furnish the parties making such request with copies of the application. Likewise, any such interested party may examine the application and other pertinent records filed with this Board during the usual office hours.

WITNESS, the Honorable MELINDA L. OCAMPO, Chairman and Honorables ALBERTO D. DOSAYLA, OSCAR E. ALA, NICOMEDES B. DEYNATA and MARIETTA U. LARRACAS, Members, Energy Regulatory Board this 23rd day of January, 2001 at Pasig City.

(Sgd.) **ARNIDO O. INUMERABLE**
Executive Director

(PDI -- Feb. 3 & 4, 2001)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Intramuros, Manila

INVITATION TO BID

Sealed bids for the printing, supply and delivery of information materials in connection with the **May 14, 2001** National and Local Elections shall be received at the Session Hall, Commission on Elections, Postigo Street, Intramuros, Manila, on **February 14, 2001** at 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon, at which place, date and time, said sealed bids shall be opened in the presence of the representatives of the Commission on Elections, participating bidders and the public. Bid documents and specifications may be obtained from the Supply Officer V, Property Division, during regular office hours, beginning **February 6, 2001**.

A pre-bid conference shall be held on **February 9, 2001**, 2:00 PM at the Session Hall, Commission on Elections, Intramuros, Manila.

Bids shall be accompanied by a Bidder's Bond equivalent to ten *per centum* (10%) of the offer, bid, tender or quotation, in the form of a cash or manager's check/ cashier's check payable to the "Commission on Elections."

The Commission reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive any defect thereon or to accept only bids which are most advantageous to the government.

February 2, 2001.

(Sgd.) **MEHOL K. SADAIN**
PBEC Chairman

(PDI -- Feb. 4, 2001)

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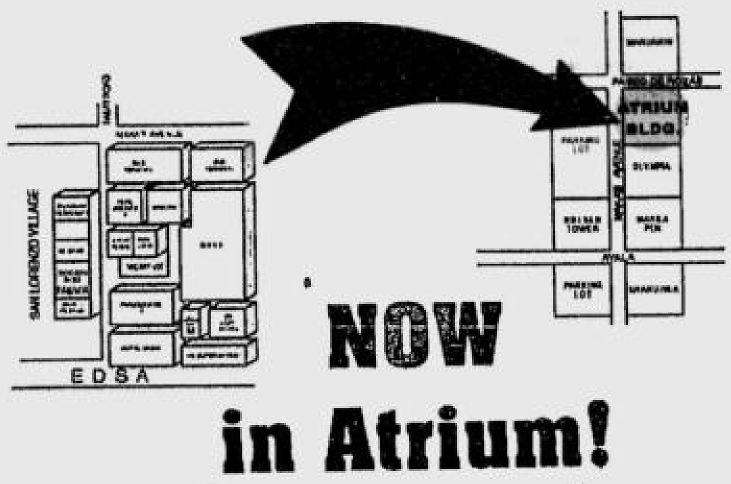

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Advice to new CEOs: Seize the moment

EXECUTIVE READ

"Right from the Start"
Dan Ciampa and Michael Watkins
Harvard Business School Press

BY DANTE M. VELASCO

YOU ARE a newly appointed chief executive officer (CEO) or chief operating officer (COO) of a renowned or new corporation. Or, to be attuned to the post-Edsa II times, you have just been designated head of a huge government bureaucracy or corporation.

As you begin rearranging the furniture, following your takeover of a post vacated by one retired or fired, how will you begin?

If you heed the advice of the book, "Right from the Start," you will seize the moment and keep the momentum throughout your tour of duty. Again, to be fashionable, taking off from former President Fidel V. Ramos and current President Macapagal-Arroyo, you should "hit the ground running."

This book is about hitting the ground running. From "securing early wins" to "building credibility," from quickly creating the "center of gravity" to building "islands of excellence," and from "mapping the new political landscape" "to "coalition building" the book dishes out sound advice.

And since it is shorn of embellishments, stripped of a load of theories, and free from the burden of over-analysis—it can truly be a handbook for any newly anointed chief executive who should be "taking charge."

The book begins with Hugh, a newly hired president and COO of a private firm, hired by a board of directors who wanted to "shake things up" and to load the firm decisively from a lackluster performance in the market toward a bigger share in a growing market.

Hugh, confident of his goals and abilities, proceeded to "fulfill the mandate" of the board, initially jacked up sales, but soon ran head on with the manufacturing head and the compensation committee chairman. Before he could say "resignation," he was fired.

The authors are quick to comment that Hugh, while competent, failed to manage the transition, created enemies, and ran smack into some values the corporation holds dear. The book says that a leader riding the transition must have both a "cultural lens" and a "political lens;" through which he views the organization he heads to avoid pitfalls that prove to be the undoing of executives like Hugh.

Essentially, the book offers reader-leader three elements to empower him as the newly appointed executive and who should, therefore, deliver quick results: create momentum, use enabling technologies and managing oneself.

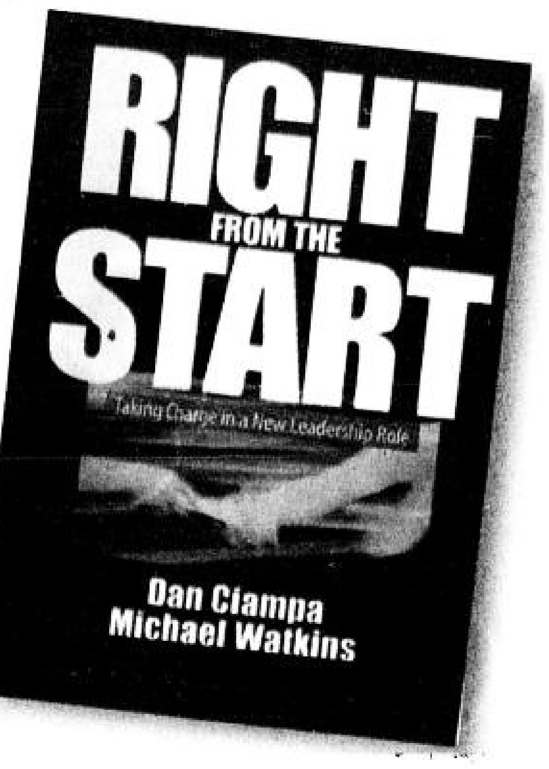
The section on "cresting momentum" should serve to jumpstart his leadership role, which includes valuable tips on beginning with the doubles—scoring early victories—with pilot project.

The discussion of identifying the right "center of gravity"—the pivotal decision from where the executive takes his initial shots—is instructive. The "center" gives him focus. To paraphrase an ancient saying, this tip proves once again the statement. "Give me a ground to stand on and I will move the world!" or words to that effect.

And as the new CEO or COO moves, he must be resolute, the book points out, quoting US diplomat Richard Holbrooke who, when he was negotiating the 1996 Bosnian peace agreement, said that he was "firm on goals, flexible on means."

While the new leader moves fast—much like the ice skater who must keep on moving lest the ice below him crushes—he must also build his political base.

His early wins should help attract "political support," says the book clarifying though that "political management" is not necessarily being "political."



The newly anointed leader is also in a unique position where he is "learning" and "doing" at the same time. Through tables and charts, the book indicates how these two parallel actions are achieved simultaneously.

The leader must also engage in "vision selling"—energizing his second level leaders to accept and commit to his own vision of the organization.

The section on coalition building is a must-read for leaders in transition. Pitfalls, like mines in minefield, abound in the organizational bureaucracy. While there is a coalition in his favor, there would probably be a "blocking coalition."

The road is not easy, the authors say, "Leadership is never easy. This is never truer than when a new leader enters an organization from the outside and must change its culture in fundamental ways. Regardless of how carefully one prepares for such a task, there are bound to be unexpected twists and turns on the road." We cannot disagree.

And for the new centurions in government, the generals who now have the plum posts at the top, and yuppies on their way there—this book is as useful as a road map. No matter how long-winding the road, no matter how obstacles spring up once in a while, no matter how corporate ambuscades are staged—you will survive your first 100 days if you seize the moment and sustain the momentum. After all, you are at the driver's seat—a job you know best. *(Feedback: danternv@I-next.net)*

Romance in Focus

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Giving tiles a second look

(From page B2)

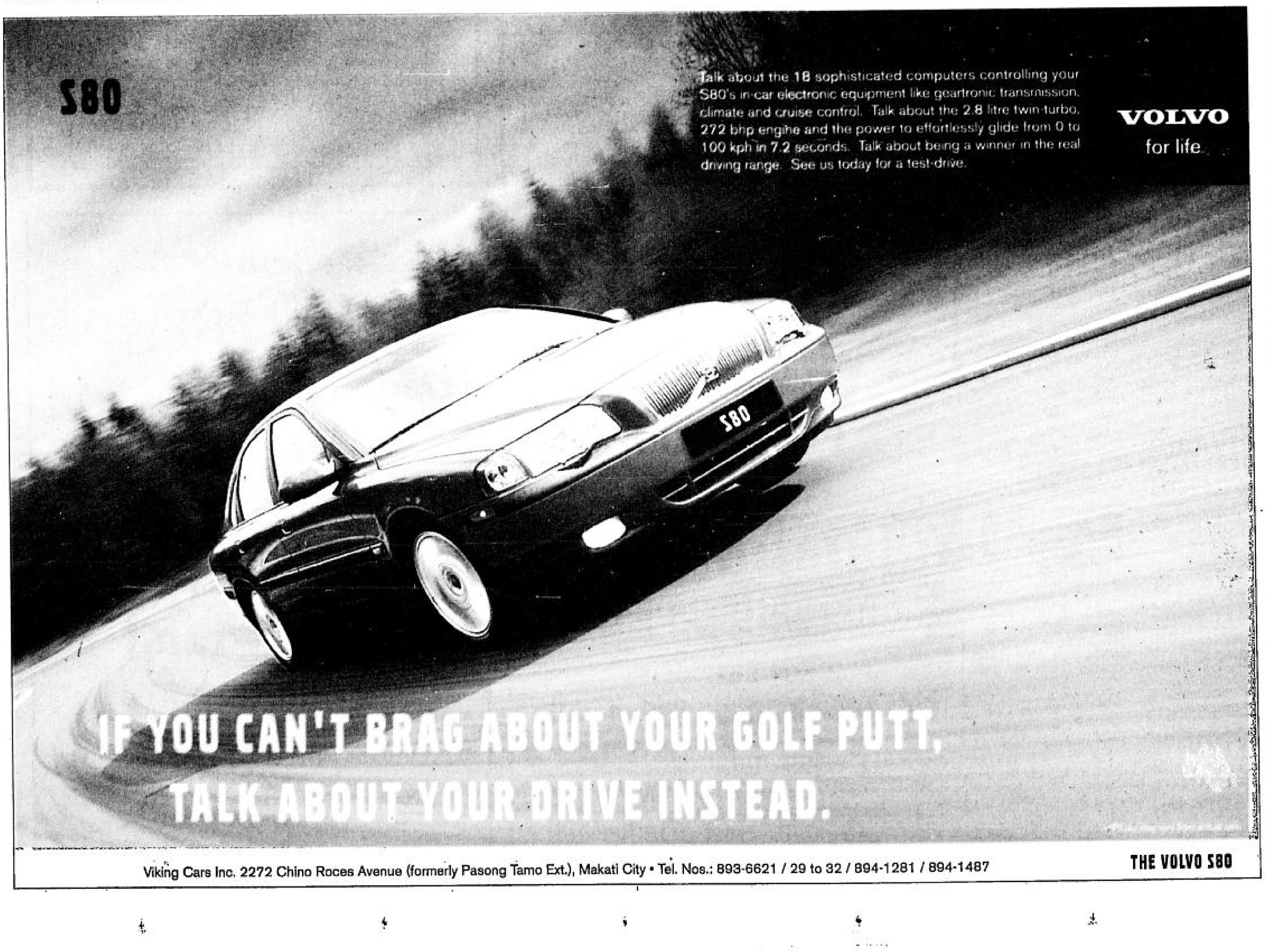
ity comes into play specially when the tiles for a particular floor area has high foot traffic.

After the body of the tiles are formed, they are topped with glaze imported from France, the US and Japan. The glazed tiles are then fired in a kiln maintained at a precise temperature depending on what type of ceramic tile will be the end product.

"We use liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) as fuel for our burners. It's true that using diesel or bunker fuel will allow us to even further lower down the costs. However, we find the tradeoffs unacceptable. For one, alternative fuels have a poorer rate of combustion and so the tiles are not baked sufficiently. Second, and equally important is that LPG is not as much a pollutant as the other alternatives," reveals Ng.

From the outset, cutting corners has been an absolute no-no. At the heart of the "firing process" of these ceramic tiles is a mainframe computer that monitors even the slightest temperature fluctuation and the amount of time each batch of tiles are fired. This electronic recording system ensures that there are minimal discards and that European quality control standard are in fact met.

"The glazing and firing process have a direct implication again on the overall durability and aesthetic longevity of ceramic tiles. Strict controls in these processes ensure that the tiles are able to resist corrosive or staining materials that are commonly spilled on floors. It also combats the dreaded "crazing" of tiles," says Ng.



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VISUAL RESEARCH & ARTWORK:
ALBERT RODRIGUEZ (major illustrations) •
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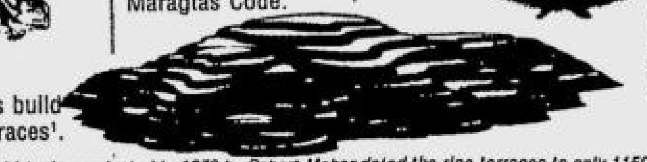
THE PHILIPPINES: From Golden Age to Erap jokes

The last 1,000 years at a glance

1100
Ancient Butuan is the center of a thriving gold industry and maritime trading with Chinese and other Asians in what historians refer to as the Philippines' Golden Age.

1150
The Ifugaos build the rice terraces[1].



1250
Chieftains led by Datu Puti build a Malay settlement in Panay; Datu Sumakwel writes the oldest known code of written laws called The Maragtas Code.

1380
Islam reaches the Philippines with the arrival of Arab teacher Karim-ul Makhdum in Sulu.

1450 –1475
The first sultanate is founded by Abu Bakr in Sulu and in Maguindanao by Serif Kabungsuwan. Muslims conquer Mindanao.

1521
March 31
First Christian Mass is celebrated in Limasawa. On April 14, Rajah Humabon and 800 other Cebuanos become the first Filipino Christian converts.

1521
April 27
In the Battle of Mactan, chieftain Lapu-lapu defeats leader of Spanish expedition Ferdinand Magellan.

1565-1898
The Muslims of Mindanao and Sulu put up their fiercest resistance against the Spaniards. In 1656, Sultan Kudarat declares the first *jihad* (holy war) against the Spaniards.

1565
The first missionaries, the Augustinians under Fr. Andres de Urdaneta, reach the Philippines with Miguel Lopez de Legazpi. The Franciscans come in **1577**; Jesuits, **1581**; Dominicans, **1587**; Recollects, **1696**; and Benedictines, **1895**.

▶Continued on Page **C2**

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[1] Radiocarbon 14-tests conducted in 1973 by Robert Maher dated the rice terraces to only 1150. Scholars earlier speculated that the terraces were constructed about 3,000 BC. Other historians say that the terraces cannot be more than 370 years old, considering that the Ifugaos migrated to the Cordilleras only in the 17th century.

We built no monuments

WITH the time line of our nation's history in the past thousand years, we begin a series of millennium projects to run throughout the "people-powered" year of 2001. It is providential that the next Philippine millennium started with yet another struggle to be free.

We as a people are by now well-defined by our fierce adherence to the pursuit of liberty.

In 1521, Lapu-lapu hacked Ferdinand Magellan to death, he who would claim the islands he stumbled upon in the name of the king of Spain.

From 1660 to '61, the Pampangueños refused to plant rice after the Spaniards promisory notes had reached P200,000.

In 1744, began the longest revolt against Spain. Francisco Dagohoy led his fellow Boholanos in a rebellion that lasted even after their leader's death. This one's for the books though the Guinness Book of Records wasn't around to note that the Boholanos kept slugging for 85 years.

In 1901, Warays wielding only bolos demolished the far-superior force of the American regiment in their town of Balangiga.

In 1942, the Battles of Bataan and Corregidor were fought and lost but are glorious chapters in our history. And wherever the history of courage is enshrined in the world.

In 1986, armed only with flowers and prayers, Filipinos stopped tanks on Edsa and dismantled the tyranny of a dictator. People Power was the Filipino's unique gift to oppressed people everywhere from Berlin to Poland to South Africa. Fifteen years later, history repeated itself in a struggle to be free of a corrupt and morally bankrupt governance.

As the time line shows, fighting for our freedom, losing it and never giving up until we won it back, kept us rather busy throughout the past millennium.

Perhaps, our yearning to stay free left us no time to build monuments to endure and startle the ages. We built the first republic in Asia. We did not write a body of literary masterpieces. We wrote the first Constitution in Asia. We made no great scientific discoveries; we mounted the first rebellion against the foreign invaders of Asia.

Even as we remain paupers among the peoples of the world, we are rich with the imperishable memories of our history. We are rich with dreams to build on for tomorrow. We are rich with faith in God and in ourselves.

Our monument to our power and glory as a people is no monument. But a shrine so small it can hardly contain our dreams. **LJM**

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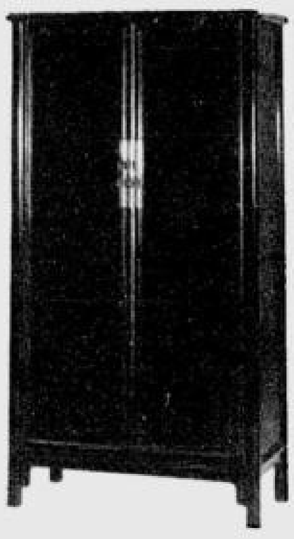

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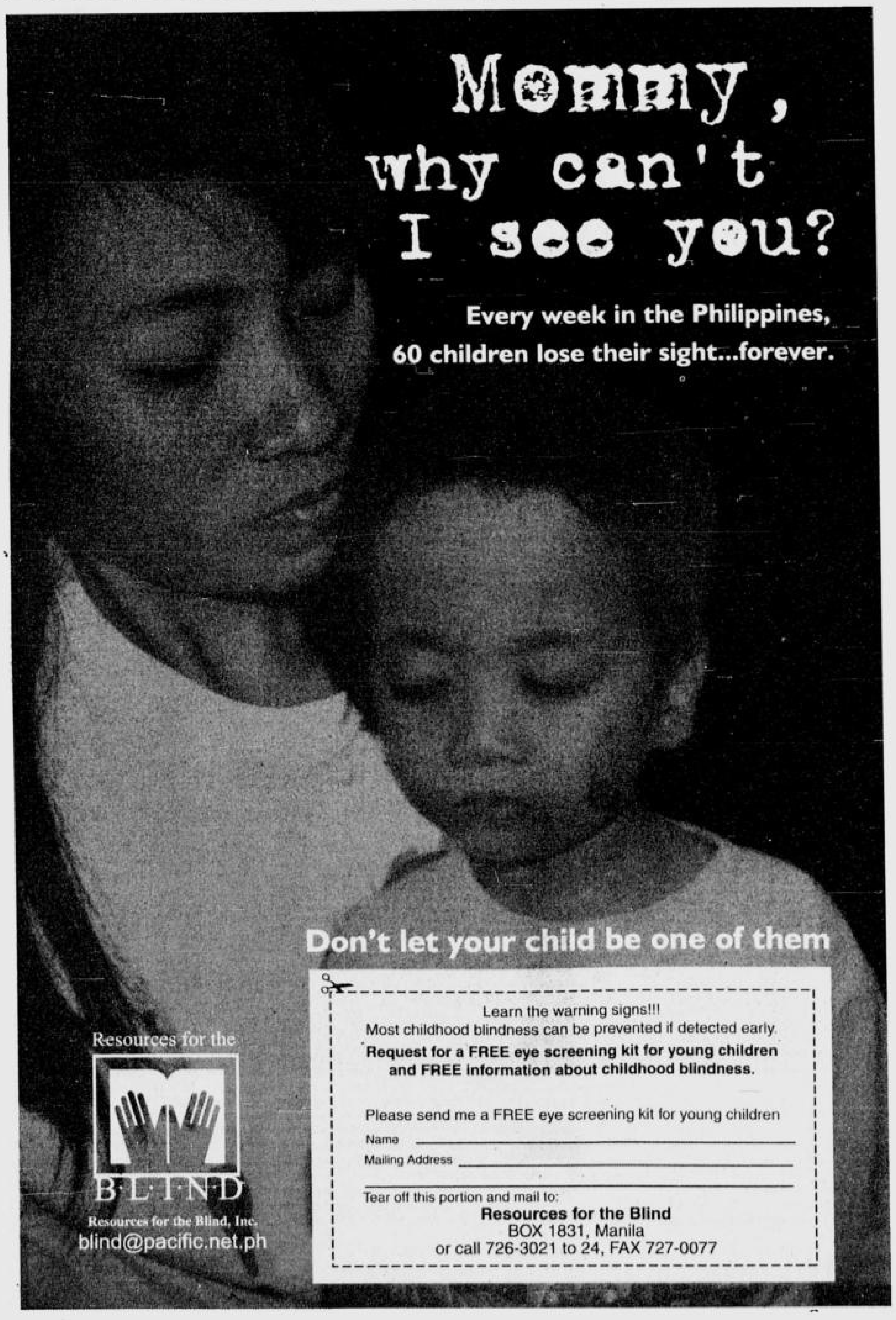
(for inquiries call Tomlinson Makau 890-9302)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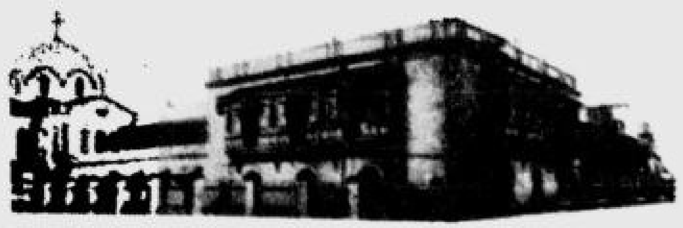
THE PHILIPPINES: From Golden Age to Erap jokes

The last 1,000 years at a glance

▶ Continued from Page C1

1571 Jan. 1
Legazpi establishes the first permanent Spanish settlement in Cebu, the La Villa de Santisimo Nombre de Jesus.

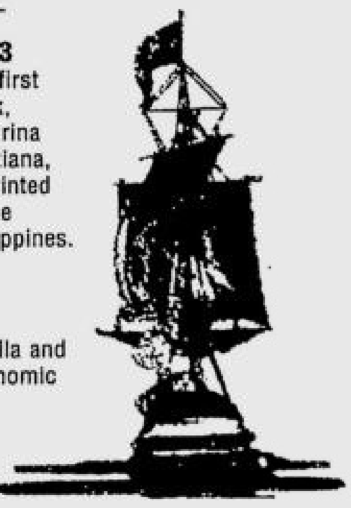
On **June 1**, he declares Manila, then the Islamic Kingdom of Rajah Sulayman, a Spanish city.



1578
A Franciscan lay brother named Juan Clemente founds the first hospital in Manila which is now Hospital de San Juan de Dios.

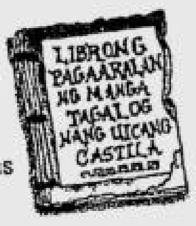
1581
The Spaniards order the Chinese to restrict their stay in the Parian or Chinatown.

1593
The first book, Doctrina Cristiana, is printed in the Philippines.



1593-1815
The Galleon trade between Manila and Acapulco eclipses all other economic activities.

1597 Feb. 5
Lorenzo Ruiz and 25 other Christian martyrs are crucified at Nagasaki. Ruiz becomes the first Filipino canonized saint on October 18, 1987.


LIBRONG PAGAARALAN NG MANGA TAGALOG NANG UICANG CASTILA

1610
Tomas Pinpin, known as the first Filipino printer, publishes the first Tagalog book, *Librong Pagaaralan nag manga Tagalog nang Uicang Castila* (Book the Tagalogs Should Study to Learn Spanish)

1625
The University of Santo Tomas gets a university rank to become the only royal Pontifical University in Asia. It is 25 years older than Harvard University, the oldest American university.

1704
Gaspar Aquino de Belen writes the first Tagalog *pasion.*

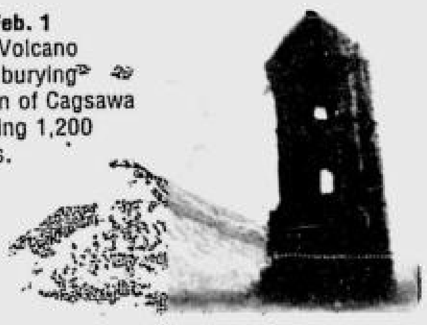
1729
The Walls of Intramuros, seat of Spanish state and church rule, are completed.

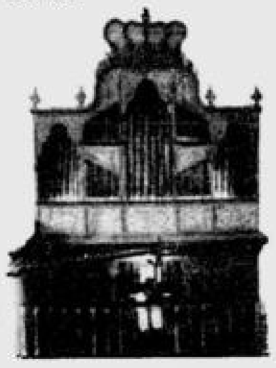
1744-1829
Francisco Dagohoy leads 3,000 Boholanos to fight the longest revolt against the Spaniards for 85 years.

1762-63
Diego Silang leads an uprising over excessive tribute and forced labor in Ilocos province. His wife, Gabriela, takes command of his forces after he's killed.

1762 Oct. – 1764 Jan.
The British invade and occupy Manila.

1814 Feb. 1
Mayon Volcano erupts, burying the town of Cagsawa and killing 1,200 persons.





1818
The Las Piñas bamboo organ, the only organ of its kind in the world, is built by Fr. Diego Cerra, a Recollect priest-musician.

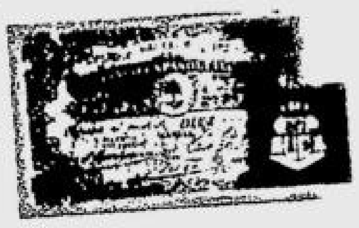
1834 Sept. 6
Manila is officially opened to world trade through a royal decree by the King of Spain.

1840-41
Apolinario de la Cruz, known as Hermano Pule, leads a rebellion in Tayabas, Laguna, after the Spanish persecution of members of his religious brotherhood "Cofradia De San Jose"

Magtanggol de la Cruz

1849 Nov. 11
Filipinos adopt Spanish surnames per order of Governor-General Claveria.

1851
August 1
The Banco Espanol de Isabel 11, the first regular bank, is established.
It is now the Bank of the Philippine Islands.



1865
The Observatory of Manila, known for its accurate forecasts of typhoons and its scientific recordings of earthquakes, is founded by the Jesuits. The observatory is the oldest in the Far East.

1872
Feb. 17
Filipino priests Jose Burgos, Mariano Gomez and Jacinto Zamora (Gomburza), who actively campaign for the secularization of the parishes, are garroted in Bagumbayan (now Luneta) for complicity in the Cavite Mutiny. Their deaths spark the nationalist movement and the Revolution of 1896.

1872-1892
Jose Rizal, Marcelo H. del Pilar, Graciano Lopez Jaena, Antonio and Juan Luna, Mariano Ponce and other young Filipino patriots lead the Propaganda Movement, the crusade for reforms.

1885
Dr. Pedro A. Paterno writes The first Filipino novel, *Ninay.*

1887
Rizal publishes *Noli Me Tangere* in Berlin,Germany. His second novel, El Filibusterismo is published in 1891

1890
Telephone system is established in Manila.

1893
Nov. 24
The 200-km Manila to Dagupan railroad is inaugurated.

▶ Continued on Page C4

VISUAL RESEARCH & ARTWORK: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ (major illustrations) • STEPH BRAVO • ERNIE SAMBO

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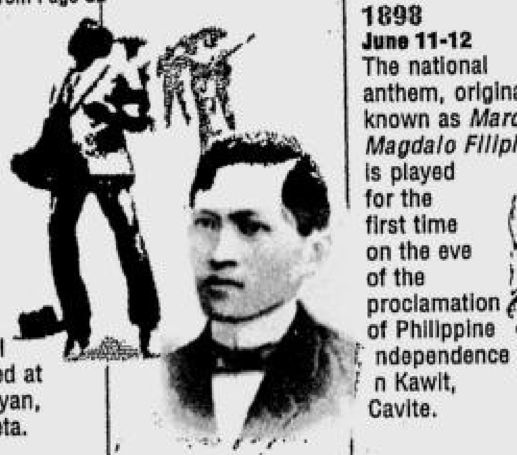
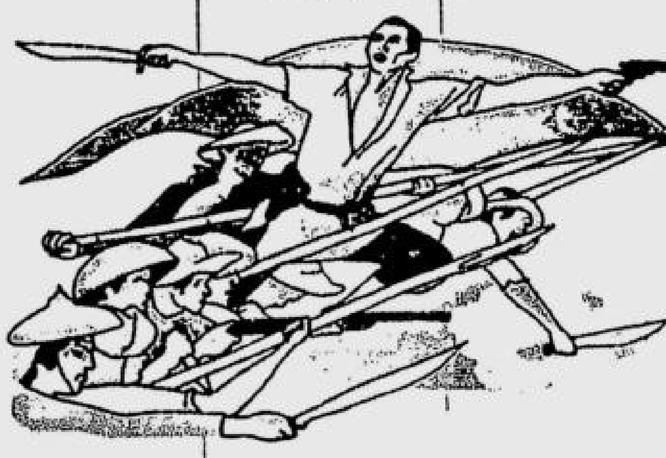


1896
Dec. 30
Jose Rizal is executed at Bagumbayan, now Luneta.

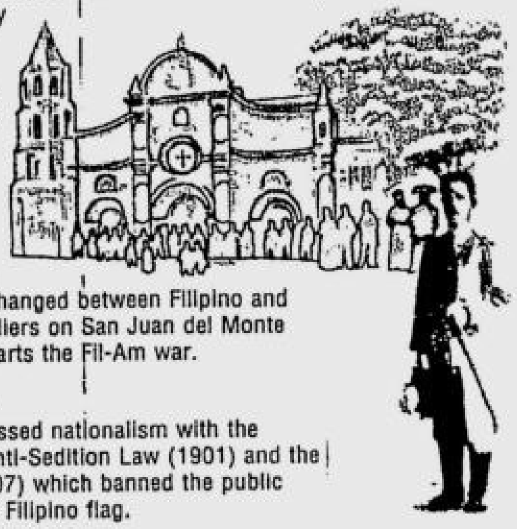
1898
June 11-12
The national anthem, originally known as *Marcha Magdalo Filipina,* is played for the first time on the eve of the proclamation of Philippine ndependence n Kawit, Cavite.



1892-98
When the *Kataastaasan Kagalang- galangang Katipunan ng mga Anak ng Bayan* (Katipunan), the secret society organized by Andres Bonifacio in July 1892, is discovered in 1896. The Katipunan's secret army is forced to take to the hills and fight. In the "Cry of Balintawak," the Katipuneros tear up their *cedulas (receipts* for tributes) to show defiance against Spanish rule. Manila, Bulacan, Pampanga, Nueva Ecija, Tarlac, Cavite, Laguna and Batangas are the first eight provinces to rise in arms, followed by Bicol and the Visayas.

1898
Dec. 10
The Treaty of Paris is signed, where Spain cedes the Philippines to the United States for $20 million.

1899 Jan. 21
Emilio Aguinaldo promulgates the first Philippine Constitution in Barasoain Church in Malolos, Bulacan also the first democratic constitution by Asians. First Philippine Republic from Jan. 23, 1899 to March 23, 1901 has Aguinaldo as president.



1899 Feb. 4
First shot exchanged between Filipino and American soldiers on San Juan del Monte Bridge that starts the Fil-Am war.

1901-1907
Era of suppressed nationalism with the Americans' Anti-Sedition Law (1901) and the Flag Law (1907) which banned the public display of the Filipino flag.

1901
Sept. 28
General Lukban's bold bolo men inflict the greatest military disaster on the Americans in what is known as the Balangiga massacre. The Americans' bloody retaliation turns Balangiga into a 'howling wilderness.'

1902
Gregorio Aglipay secedes from the Catholic Church and founds his own church.

1902
Filipinos fight the War of Independence against the Americans and continue the fight despite the capture of Aguinaldo in March 1901.

1902-06
Gen. Macario Sakay continues the war against the American forces after the majority of Filipino generals surrender.

1908
Aug. 29.
The cartoon Juan de la Cruz appears in the Philippine Free Press.

1913
The Underwood-Simmons Act establishes full free trade between the RP and the US.

1914
July 27
Iglesia ni Kristo is founded by Felix Manalo.

1919
Jose Nepomuceno produces the first local film, *Dalagang Bukid.*

1925 May 25
Lola Basyang is introduced in Liwayway Magazine. Four years later, *Kenkoy,* the first Filipino komiks, is introduced also in Liwayway.

1929
American talking pictures are introduced in the Philippines. In 1932, *Aswang,* the first Filipino talking picture is shown at the Lyric theater.

1930
Golden age of the zarzuela in the Philippines.

1935
Nov. 15
Inauguration of commonwealth government, with Manuel L. Quezon as president

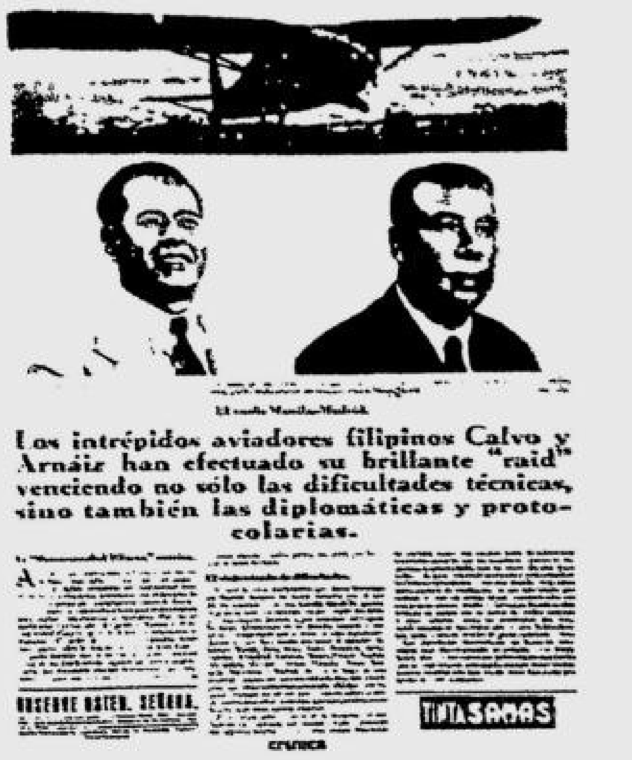
1937
Apr. 30
Filipino women get the right to vote, with 447,725 voting Yes compared to only 44,307 voting No in a plebiscite.

1941 Feb. 14
PAL, Asia's first airline, makes its maiden flight from Nielsen Airport in Makati to Baguio City.

1941
Dec. 8
At 6:30 a.m., the Japanese bomb Davao, then hours later, Tuguegarao, Baguio, Iba and Tarlac. Manila is bombed the next day.

1942
In Bataan and Corregidor, Filipino and American forces make their last stand against the Japanese.
On **April 9**, the defenders of Bataan surrender and begin the infamous "Death March" where about 10,000 Filipinos die. The Battle of Corregidor ends a month later.

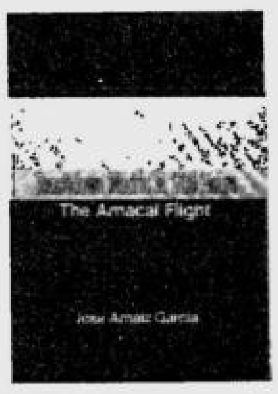
Continued on Page C5



Los intrépidos aviadores filipinos Calvo y Arnáiz han efectuado su brillante "raid" venciendo no sólo las dificultades técnicas, sino también las diplomáticas y protocolarias.

BRAVEHEARTS Calvo and Arnaiz flew from Manila to Madrid and into the hearts of their countrymen

1936 May 28



The Arnacal Flight

Jose Arnaiz Garcia

Two young Filipino Air Force flyers, Juan Calvo and Antonio Arnaiz, boarded a rickety Curtiss two-seater, single-engine plane and flew off into Philippine aviation history.

Backed by an enterprising newspaper publisher, Calvo and Arnaiz set off on a perilous journey from Manila to Madrid, braving the harshest of elements and risking death with each spin of the propeller in their quest to link the Philippines with her mother country, Spain, a journey that lasted some 45 days As a result, they became heroes, winning the hearts of their countrymen, much as Charles A. Lindbergh had done in the United States several years before.

Their incredible achievements, however, were soon overshadowed by the dark cloud of World War 11 and the subsequent Japanese Occupation, and after the war, Calvo and Arnaiz were all but forgotten. Author Jose Arnaiz Garcia' in an effort to restore these brave flyers to their rightful place in Philippine history, has documented this historical flight, skillfully bestowing the long-overdue credit these men so richly deserve.

Touchdown Madrid at 1700 Hours: The Arnacal Flight is the story of two men's triumph over monumental obstacles. Taken as such, it is a truly remarkable and inspiring testament to the strength, durability, and determination of the human spirit.

The book is published by Vantage Press, Inc. in New York City.

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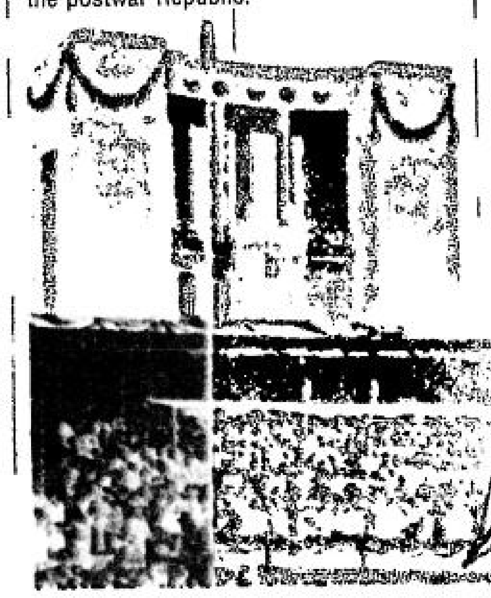
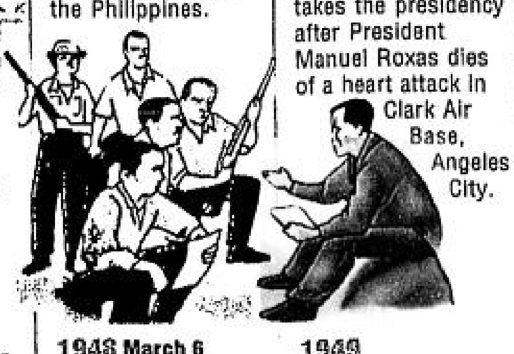
1944 Oct. 20
General Douglas mcArthus fulfills his promise: "I shall return" landing in Palo, Leyte. The liberation of the country begins.

1946 April
The kidnapping and murder of peasant leader Juan Feleo transforms the sporadic peasant revolts in Central Luzon into a full-blown rebellion of the Huks or the Hukbong Mapaglaya ng Bayan.

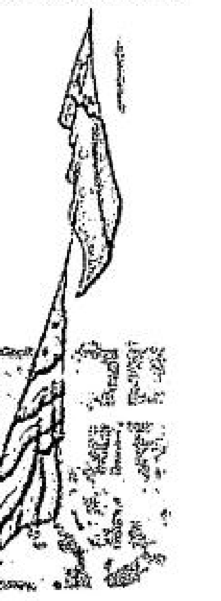
1946 July 4
Inauguration of Philippine independence from 48 years of American colonial rule with Manuel Roxas as first President of the postwar Republic.



1947 March 14
The Military Bases Agreement allows the United States to maintain bases in the Philippines.



1948 March 6
The government outlaws the HUKBALAHAP of Luis Taruc and Pambansang Kaisahan ng mga Magbubukid of Mateo del Castillo.



1948 April 17
Vice-President Elpidio Quirino takes the presidency after President Manuel Roxas dies of a heart attack in Clark Air Base, Angeles City.

1949
Carlos Romulo becomes the first Asian to be elected president of the United Nations General Assembly.

1953 Nov. 10
Ramon Magsaysay and Carlos Garcia of the Nacionalista Party are elected President and Vice-President, respectively.

1954 May 17 Luis Taruc surrenders to the government after four months of negotiations with newsman Benigno 'Ninoy' Aquino, Magsaysay's personal emissary.

1954 Sept. 8
Start of a three-day conference in Manila attended by representatives of 8 Asian countries resulting in the creation of the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO).

1955 Sept.
The Laurel-Langley Agreement granting parity rights to Americans is approved by both the Philippine and American governments.

1957 March 17
Magsaysay and 25 others abroad the presidential plane "Pinatubo" crash on Mt. Manunggal, Cebu.

1957 Nov. 12
Carlos Garcia wins a four-year term as president, defeating Claro M. Recto. Diosdado Macapagal wins as vice-president.

1960 March 16
Gabriel 'Flash' Elorde knocks out American Harold Gomes to begin his reign as the world junior lightweight champion, the longest reigning Filipino world champion.

1961 Nov. 14
Macapagal defeats Carlos Garcia to become the fifth president. Emmanuel Pelaez is vice-president.

1962 May 12
Macapagal changes the date of Independence Day from July 4 to June 12.

1965 Nov. 9
Ferdinand Marcos is elected sixth president.

1967 Aug. 8
The Association of Southeast Asian Nations is created after a summit in Manila.

1966 Nov. 11
Marcos is re-elected president.

1966
Filipino scientist Rodolfo Aquino pollinates IR-8-288-3 or simply IR-8, the first of several high yielding "miracle rice" varieties that led to Asia's Green Revolution and victory over the global scourge of famine.

1968 March 18
In the Jabidah Massacre, twenty-six Muslims are killed in a training camp in Corregidor. The incident radicalizes Muslim students and leads to the formation of political organizations to culminate eventually in the establishment of the Moro National Liberation Front.

1968 Dec. 26
Jose Ma. Sison reestablishes the Communist Party of the Philippines.

1969 March
The CCP organizes the New People's Army for a 'national democratic' revolution.

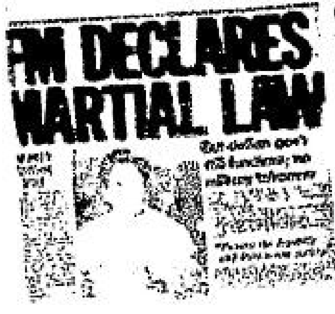
1970 Jan. 30
Radical and moderate students launch a wave of protest against the rule of President Marcos known as the First Quarter Storm, after a violent and bloody dispersal by riot police.

1970 Nov. 26
Pope Paul VI, the first pontiff to visit here, begins a three-day visit to the Philippines.

1971 March 30
Six male students hijack a PAL One Eleven flight from Manila to Davao and order the pilots to take them to China.

1971
Nur Misuari formally establishes the Moro National Liberation Front.

1971 Aug. 21
Two hand grenades are thrown at a Liberal Party rally at Plaza Miranda; President Marcos suspends the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus



FM DECLARES MARTIAL LAW

1972 Sept.21 -1986 Feb 25
Marcos rules as president by virtue of martial law, imposed on Sept. 21, 1972. He padlocks Congress, suspends the Constitution and jails scores of opposition leaders and mediamen. By the end of martial rule, at least 10,000 Filipinos had been tortured, summarily executed or become victims of various forms of human rights violations.

1976
Rafael 'Paeng' Nepomuceno wins the World Cup bowling in Tehran, Iran.

1977 Nov. 25
Ninoy Aquino is sentenced to death by a military tribunal.

1981 June 16
Marcos is "re-elected" to another six-year-term and is praised by US Vice-President George Bush for his "adherence to democratic principles."

▷ Continued on Page C6

1945 Feb. 3

(Excerpted from the book Warsaw of Asia: The Rape of Manila by Jose Ma. Bonifacio Escoda to be launched on Feb.16.)

2:00 a.m.: American planes bombed Nichols Air Field and blew up the ammunition depot at Fort McKinley some 15 km. from the heart of Manila. The explosion was heard at Santo Tomas camp. The internees who heard it went up to the last floors of the main building. They saw how the explosions lighted up the dark sky with different changing colors, a sight that reminded them of the Fourth of Jul.

8:00 a.m.: 3rd Lt. Diosdado Guytingco, from where he was on Rizal Ave., saw the low-flying P-38's which were flying at such a low attitude that their planes seemed to be touching the rooftops. "I could clearly see the faces of the pilots," Guytingco declared.

9:00 a.m.: The Wha Chi guerrillas and the Hukbalahaps, after an overnight stay in Navotas, Rizal, entered the city boundary at Rizal Ave. Ext. For their own safety, these two groups, who did not have communication with nor support from the Americans and were at odds with the rest of the guerrillas, marched on the railroad tracks. The Wha ('hi forces, composed of three squadrons, and hundreds of Hukbalahaps waved Filipino, Chinese and American flags. The Filipinos were surprised, exclaiming: *"Pati ang mga intsik* (colloquial term for the Chinese) *lumusob na rin!"* (Even the Chinese have joined the charge!)

They went in the direction of the Pasig River. Their presence neutralized the Japanese in some areas of Binondo and Santa Cruz districts, and prevented them from burning the place and killing all the civilians there.

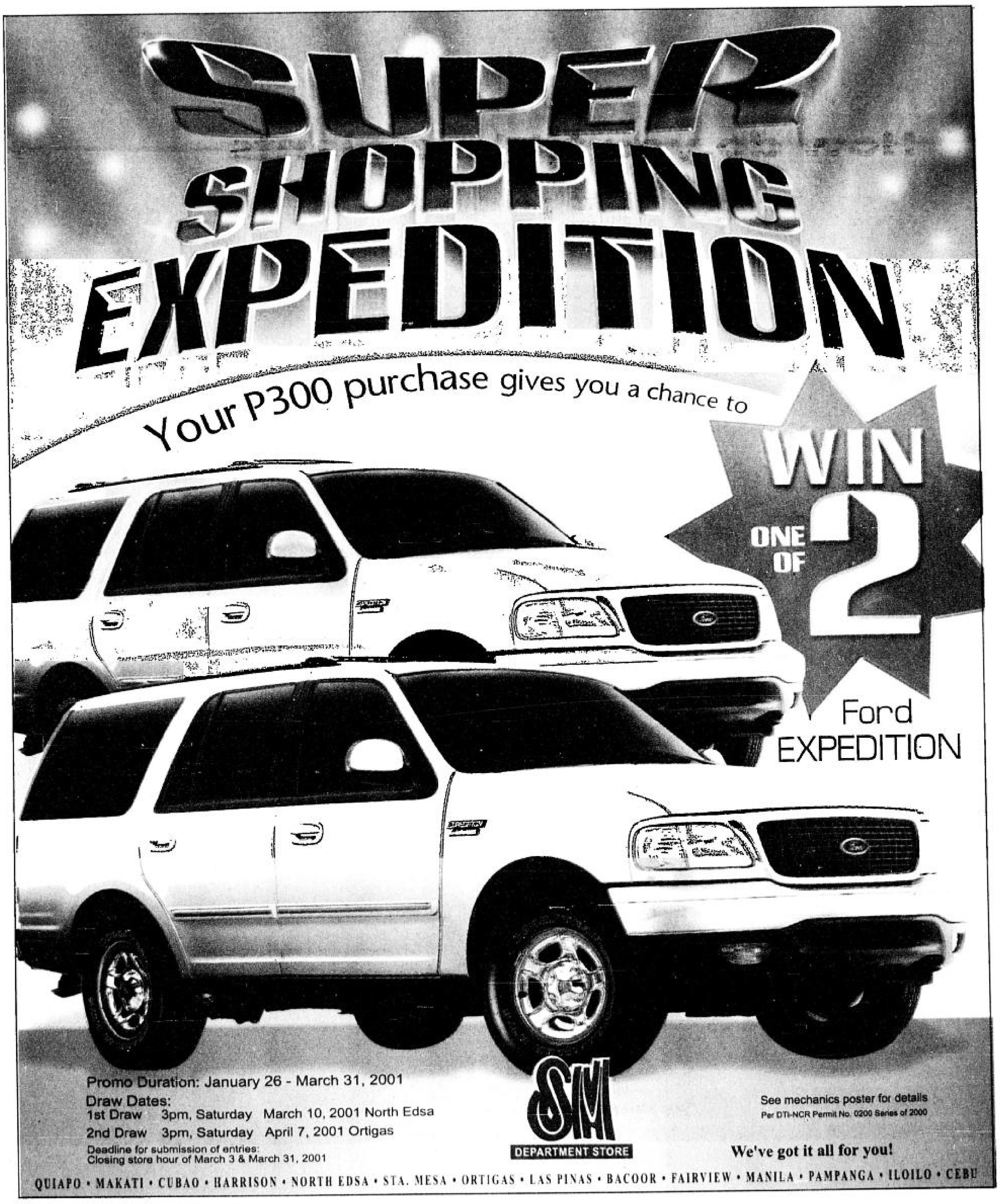
The Flying Column reached Novaliches, Quezon City, a remote area lying adjacent to Caloocan, Rizal and San Jose del Monte, Bulacan. The liberators were met by the excited Filipino guerrillas. Some of them, like 28-year-old Vicente Velasquez, offered to drive the weapons carrier and took over the wheel.

First Lt. Vicente M. Kierulf, Jr., who was armed with an M-1, sat on top of one of the tanks and guided one of the Serials of the First Cavalry.

Minutes later the three columns of the First Cavalry met fierce resistance from the Japanese stationed in the area.

2-,3:00 p.m.: American pilots bombed the military targets as indicated on Joey Guerrero's map. The important targets in the Manila Port Area were blasted by the dive bombers.

c.4:00 p.m.: American fighter planes, knowing about the absence of air defense, flew at a very low altitude over Santo Tomas internee Camp as they did in other places. Former Santo Tomas internee Mrs. Maria Dondis Cadwallader described the scene: "Many internees ran out to see the planes..."



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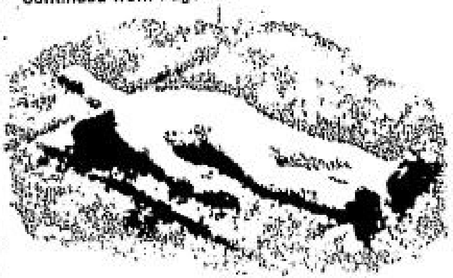
The last 1,000 years at a glance

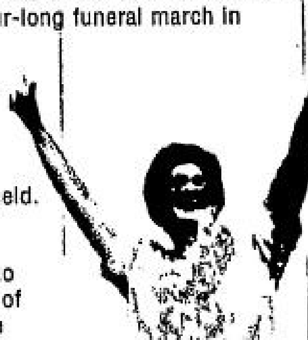
Continued from Page C5

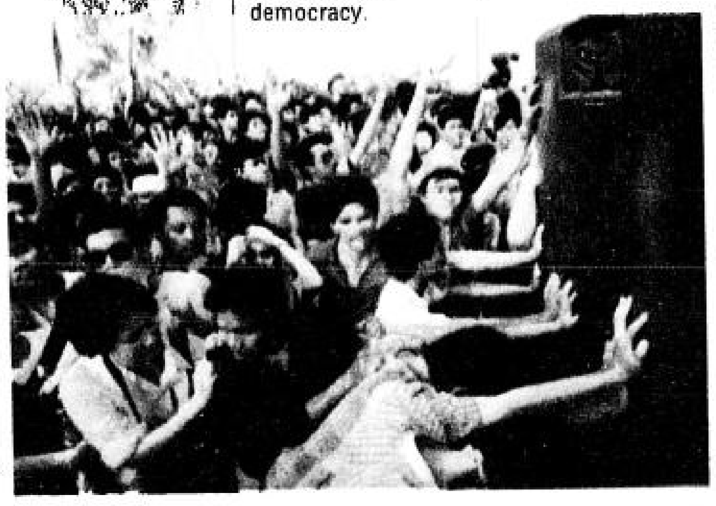


1983 Aug. 21
Benigno Aquino is assassinated at the Manila International Airport. Throngs of supporters line the streets and thousands join his 11-hour-long funeral march in August 31.

1986 Feb. 7
"Snap" presidential elections are held.

1986 Feb. 16
Corazon Aquino leads millions of Filipinos at the *Tagumpay ng Bayan* (People's Victory Rally) at the Luneta, to launch a nationwide campaign for civil disobedience to force Marcos to step down.





1986 Feb. 22-25
The People's Revolution at Edsa, where not a single shot is fired, leads to the fall of Marcos. Marcos and family with Eduardo Cojuangco and Gen. Fabian Ver flee into exile; Corazon Aquino takes her oath of office as the seventh President of the Republic.

1986 Sept. 5
Aquino and MNLF chairman Nur Misuari sign an agreement in Jolo, Sulu, to end hostilities between the government and Muslim rebels.

1987 Jan. 22
13 farmers are killed and scores wounded in the Mendiola Massacre.

1987 Feb. 2
Filipinos ratify the 1986 Freedom Constitution in a crucial show of support for President Aquino. Congress opens, marking the country's return to constitutional democracy.

1987 Aug. 28
Army Lt. Col. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan, Reform the Armed Forces Movement officer, stages a coup but fails. Honasan is arrested in December 1988.

1987 Dec. 20
MV Doña Paz collides with an oil tanker resulting in about 4,300 deaths, considered the world's worst peacetime maritime tragedy.

1989 Dec. 1-7
Dismissed Lt. Col. Honasan stages the bloodiest coup against the Cory government.

1990 July 16
An intensity 7.8 earthquake hits Luzon, seriously damaging the cities of Baguio, Cabanatuan and Dagupan.

1991 June 9
Mt. Pinatubo, dormant for over 400 years, erupts at 2:55 p.m.

1991 Sept. 16
The Senate rejects the treaty granting 10-year extension of the US military bases in the Philippines.
In Nov. 26, the US turns over Clark Air Base to the Philippines after nearly a century of control. The Philippine government officially asks the United States to withdraw completely from Subic Naval Base by December 1992.

1991 Nov. 5
"Uring" brings flashfloods and leaves thousands dead in Ormoc, Leyte.

1992 May 11
Fidel Ramos and Joseph Estrada are elected President and Vice-President respectively.

1995 Jan. 15
Breaking a world record, an estimated four million Filipinos attend the World Youth Day mass celebrated by Pope John Paul 11 at the Luneta.

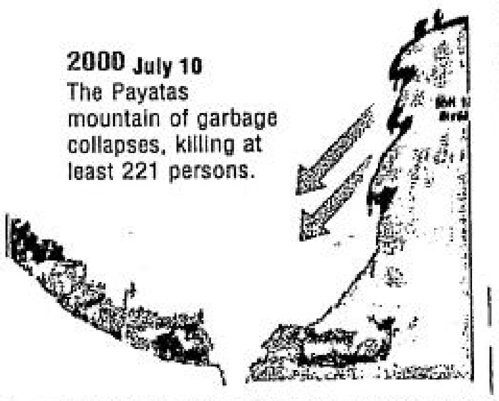
1996 March 18
The Ozone Disco fire kills about 162 persons mostly teenagers.

1998 Feb 2
Cebu Pacific Air Flight 387 slams into a mountain ridge between Mt. Sumagaya and Mt. Lumot in Misamis Oriental, killing all 104 people aboard.

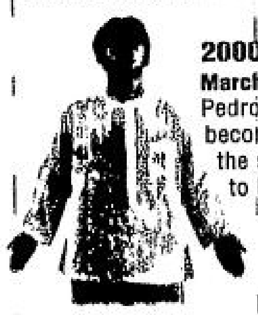
1998 June 12
Filipinos celebrate the centennial of Philippine Independence.

1998 June 30
Joseph Estrada takes his oath as 13th president at the Barasoain Church in Malolos Bulacan, then vows "walang kaibigan, walang kumpare, walang kamag-anak' in his inaugural address at the Luneta.

2000 July 10
The Payatas mountain of garbage collapses, killing at least 221 persons.



2000 Oct. 11
Luis 'Chavit' Singson reveals that Estrada is the lord of all jueteng lords.



2000 March 5
Pedro Calungsod becomes the second Filipino to be beatified.

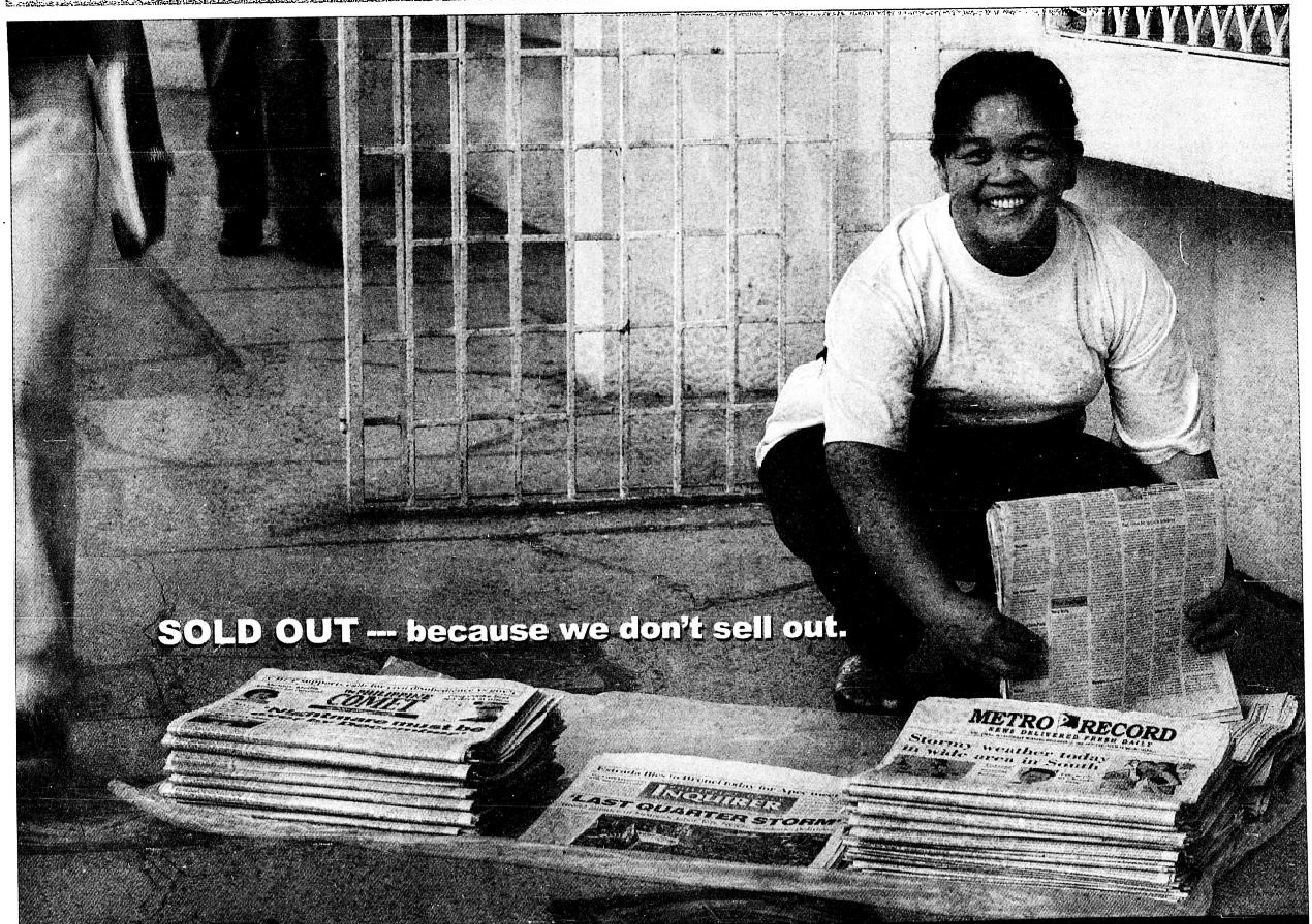
2000 Nov. 13
President Estrada is impeached, the first Asian leader to be so humiliated.

2000 Dec. 7
Impeachment trial opens

SAGISAG
PILIPINAS

REFERENCES AND SOURCES OF DATA: *History of the Filipino People by Agoncillo and Alfonso / Filipino Heritage: The Making of a Nation vols. 1 to 10 / Kasaysayan: The Story of the Filipino People vols. 1 to 10 / The Pageant of Philippine History by Zaide / Readings in Philippine Prehistory by the Filipiniana Book Guild, Inc. / Cultural Center of the Philippines Encyclopedia / National Library and Inquirer archives*

VISUAL SOURCES : *Kasaysayan: The Story of the Filipino People / Filipino Heritage / Images of Manila / Almanac for Manileños / World War II: Japan at War / Bayan Ko*



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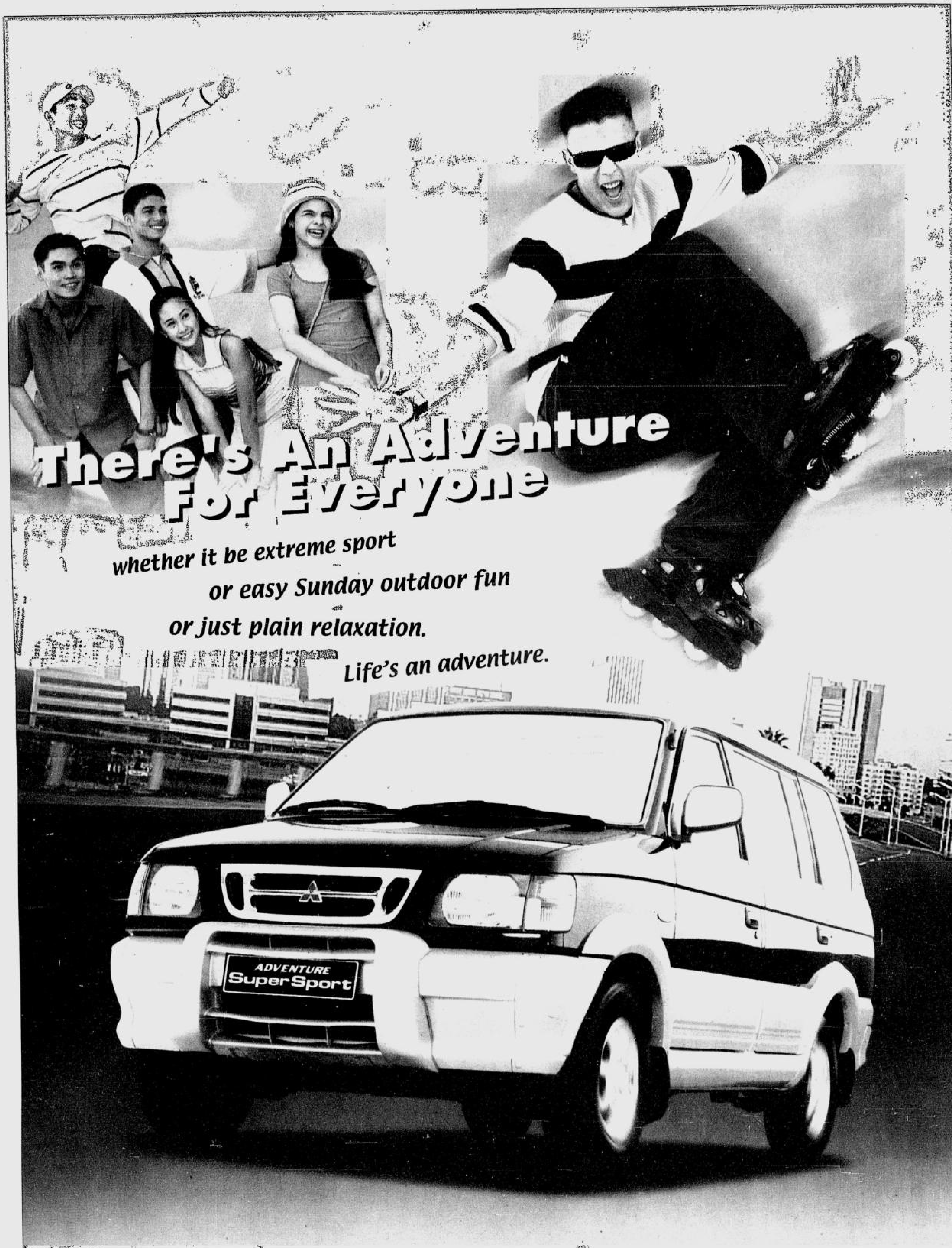

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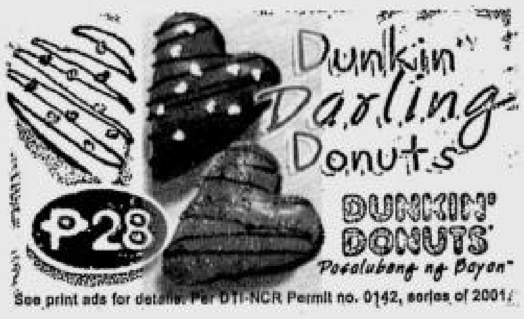
CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor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P28
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Sotto and Jaworski: Look who's texting

Week Waker uppers

Compiled by Lito B. Zulueta

SENATORS **Tito Sotto** and **Robert Jaworski** never seem to learn their lesson. Smarting from the flurry of text messages that heaped ridicule and hate on them for voting to kill the evidence against now-ousted President **Joseph Estrada**, the duo is demanding for the registration of prepaid cell phone users. In short, they want "texters" to be traceable and held accountable for such messages as:

"Go back to 'Eat Bulaga'!"

"And even in 'Eat Bulaga" you weren't funny!"

"*Sabi mo* 'Never say die!' *Pero ikaw*, 'Never do good!'"

"*Marunong maglaro ng bola kahit walang bola!*"

The senators have accused the mobile phone companies of giving out their cell phone numbers and making them victims of hate-texts. How do they know their own friends didn't turn against them and spread the information around? Have they been really careful about giving out their mobile numbers?

Despite the apparent viciousness of some of the messages, registering prepaid phone users is unconstitutional since it violates the right to privacy and the right to free expression. With the senators' pompous, pontificating and un-

SOTTO/ p.D2

JAWORSKI

SOTTO

HER IMELDIFIC MAKES IT TO NOTTING HILL. This T-shirt of former first lady Imelda Marcos, the "Saint of Shoes," was a hot item in a bazaar in London's quaint but fashionable Notting Hill. The shirt was displayed between those of Elvis Presley and Shiva the Indian god.

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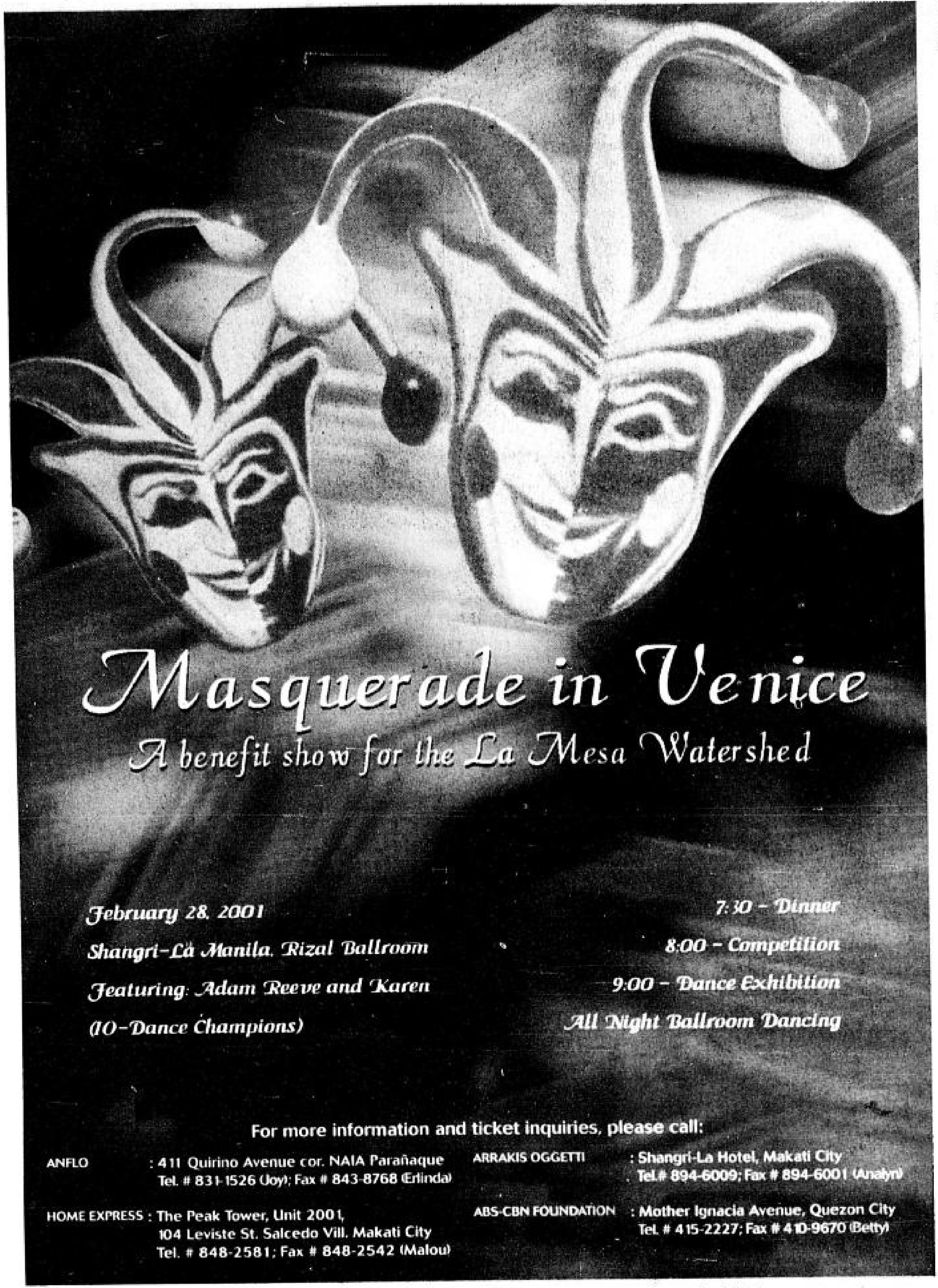
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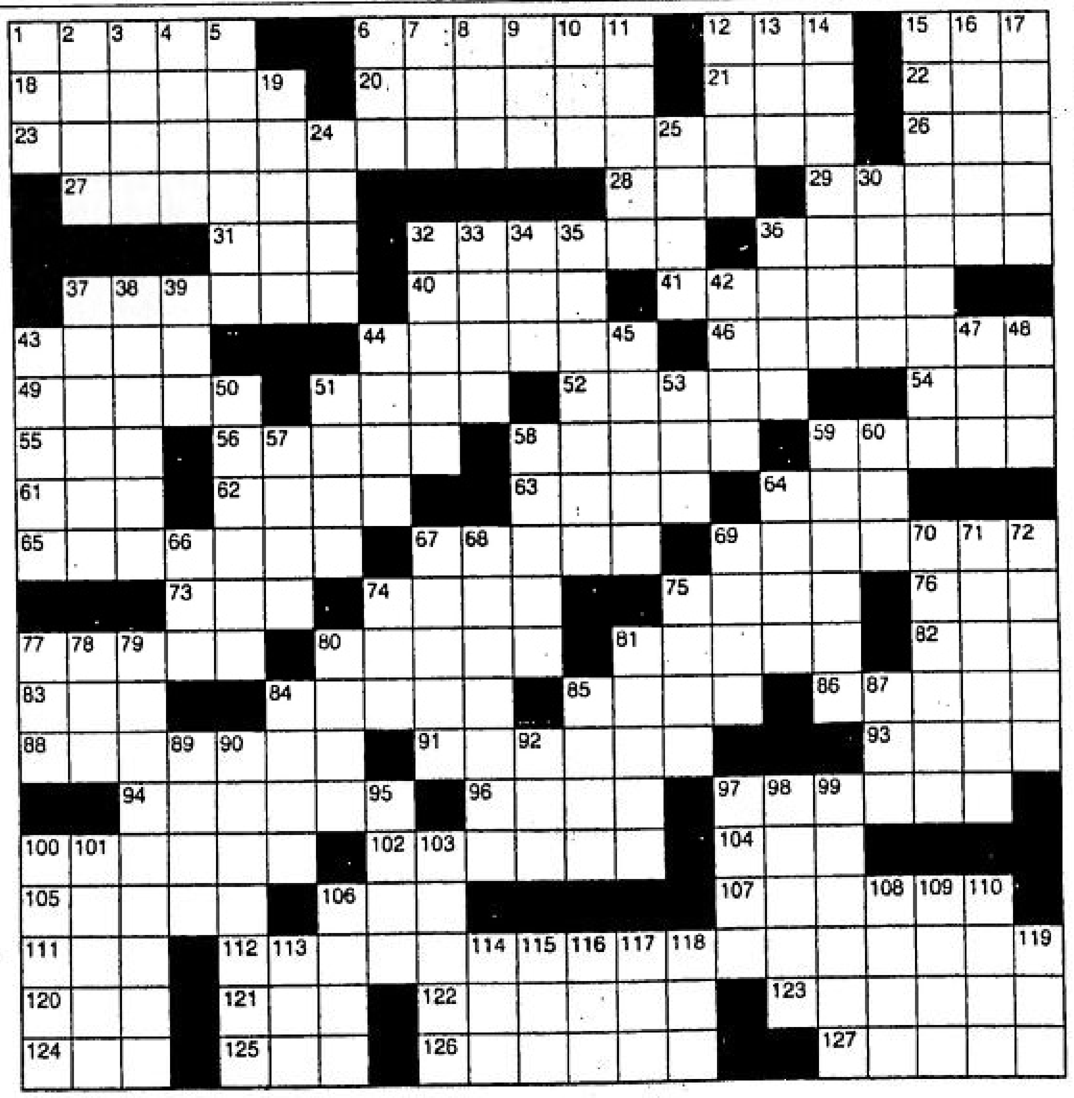

ACROSS
1 Roofing material
6 Litigates
12 Director Peckinpah
15 Bull's babe
18 Florida eleven
20 40th president
21 Baudelaire's buddy
22 Nabokov novel
23 Mitch Miller hit
26 "Agnus —"
27 Throw a line to
28 She's a sheep date
29 Bakery display
31 — Aviv
32 Blazing
36 Most mammoth
37 Elegant
40 Pebbles' papa
41 — Leone
43 Black and white
44 Bing Crosby hit
46 Service member?
49 Tilden's opponent
51 Seize
52 Slip of the tongue
54 Tax shelter
55 Animated Olive
56 Proofreader's mark
58 Word with tea or pepper
59 Get more magazines
61 Jack of "Flower Drum Song"
62 Be — unto oneself
63 Tear to bits
64 Marry
65 Patti Page hit
67 Scold
69 Andrews Sisters hit
73 Tenor Slezak
74 Corporate VIP
75 Burlap fiber
76 Word on a pump
77 Supped in style
80 Pasta ingredient
81 Government group
82 Winter hazard
83 TV's "Scooby- —"
84 Too experienced
85 Flip
86 Sri —
88 Land mass
91 Wilbert Harrison hit
93 Doesn't come clean
94 Daze
96 — Haven, CT
97 Exhausted
100 Enigmatic sort
102 Lost
104 Essen exclamation
105 Couldn't stand
106 First zoo?
107 Concerto —
111 Bachelor's last words
112 Gladys Knight hit
120 New Deal agcy.
121 — later date
122 Used a ewer
123 Through the nose
124 Cartoon cry
125 — de guerre.
126 Beethoven's "Moonlight —"
127 Dutch artist Jan

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1 Cpl.'s superior
2 Bolger/Haley co-star
3 To — (perfectly)
4 Petite pooches
5 Builds
6 Paid player
7 Actor Ayres
8 Musical sensitivity
9 Past
10 Wagner's "— Rheingold"
11 Look like Hook?
12 Cash stash
13 Qty.
14 Blend
15 Mamas & Papas hit
16 "Golden Boy" dramatist
17 Dress part
19 Turns about
24 Portrait painter Peter
25 Is in debt
30 Taj town
32 G-sharp's keymate
33 Chow
34 Creepy Christopher
35 Stuck fast
36 Munich mister
37 Kindergarten item
38 Defeat
39 Affirmative vote
42 Sacred image
43 That's the spirit
44 Make tea
45 Worth or Papas
47 Prior to, to Prior
48 Damp and chilly
50 Cleaned a carp
51 Schwarzenegger's birthplace
53 Cabernet color
57 Voice type
58 It's run of the mill?
59 Nullify
60 Tokyo, once
64 Power unit
66 Wayfarer's whistle wetter
67 Stream
68 Earphones
69 Propel with a pole
70 Entertainer Kazan
71 Played soccer
72 Zones
74 Third degree?
75 Panel of peers
77 SHAEF commander
78 Letters of credit?
79 Johnny Horton hit
80 WWII unit
81 Dock of the bay
84 Put the whammy on
85 Galileo's birthplace
87 Heidi's hangout
89 Racer Luyendyk
90 Nocturnal visitor
92 Subway unit
95 Merit
97 It's a long story
98 Caustic
99 Conversation pieces?
100 Gleam
101 Clerical title
103 Excludes
106 Smith or Sandler
108 ER exclamation
109 Painful
110 Eye appreciatively
113 Robert of "Quincy, M.E."
114 Sticky stuff
115 Savage sort
116 La-la lead-in
117 Asian holiday
118 Nutritional abbr.
119 Writer Rand

ANSWER ON PAGE 00

She fears she is being selfish to her family

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

DEAR Tita Dulce,

Dad died when I was 7. He was an alcoholic and I remember how difficult it was for us when he was alive. But we loved him and we understood the frustrations that drove him to drink.

My older siblings were away in college so I was given mature tasks early in life, taking care of my younger sister, doing house chores, tending to my mom's optical shop when she was away and saving my allowance to help Mom out when she ran short. She was super, kind, loving and was raising us all by herself so I studied hard to make Mom happy.

In my third year in college, I began taking some responsibilities for my younger sister's education, like buying her weekly food ration from my allowance. After college, I taught in a university not far from my sister's so she could come home to my place on weekends. She was the apple of our family's eyes so it was quite a blow to us when, at 18, she suddenly died.

I resigned from my teaching job, went home and got a job in the company where I am now. About a year after my sister died, Mom had a stroke and was partly paralyzed. It was the most emotionally and physically draining part of my life.

I once again wore my "caretaker" hat and attended to everything I could manage, as my elder sister was sickly and my brother was working in Manila. Not that I minded it. I loved Mom so much and my burden was little compared to her suffering. When Mom died, two years after my younger sister did, relatives expected me to cry the most, but I did not. I didn't want her to die, but it was better that way, seeing how she suffered.

My elder sister is undergoing expensive treatment for kidney failure. None of us three is married, so we still manage the expenses using my brother's and my salaries plus money from renting our house in the province. It's not that I worry about money, but I'm saving little from my salary. Isn't that an indication that my life isn't going anywhere?

I like the principle behind my work, but I feel my assigned tasks are not significant enough. I want to scout for another job, but I don't want to go through the uncertainties of a new job considering our domestic situation. I finished college with honors and I've been thinking of pursuing a Ph.D. (I'm paying for a modest preneed educational plans, but the prerequisite degrees for the field of my choice do not include the one I have now.) My closest friends are in the province and I keep in touch with them mostly through texts only. I haven't had a real boyfriend.

I've been oscillating between optimism and depression. I read a lot of inspirational books, but they were effective only for a while. Worse, I feel guilty about feeling this way because I know I have a lot of blessings to count. I know God will always be loving and kind and won't give up on me, but I pray that I won't give up on myself, which I sometimes feel like doing.

Why am I like this? Am I just being selfish? Am I a codependent? I read about it and even tried some of the tips for codependents but I ended up feeling worse. Perhaps I can stand the notion of being a loser in the worldly sense, but not the awareness that my heart has hardened. Why is it that the mind thinks so much but the heart wants to love so much? Sometimes I feel like a fake. Please help me untangle myself.

FRUSTRATEDLY CONFUSED

You have been selfless in taking care of your mother and your sister before. But now, finding yourself still wearing the caretaker's hat, you are having mixed feelings about continuing with that role. Does that mean you are being selfish? I don't think so. I think it only means you are growing up, maturing.

Perhaps during the previous decades you defined yourself or your worth by how well you helped other people pursue their objectives and dreams—your mother and her pursuit of a functional home, your sister and her pursuit of education away from home. But now you feel the same yardstick no longer applies. Now you feel you can also define yourself by your career and your professional accomplishments. Now you feel your meaningful relationships should extend to people farther from home.

Those are not bad or evil or selfish feelings. Those are thoughts of growing up, of knowing your life has many facets, and your rainbow has many colors and you have to experience each.

The transition from being selfless to being one's self can be uneasy in times like this, when you hate a sick sister who definitely needs your care. Paying heed to yourself, however, does not necessarily mean ignoring your sister completely. (And given the person that you are, I don't think you'll succeed even if you try to ignore her and your responsibilities to her.)

At this time, being one's self probably only means you have to acknowledge—without guilt feelings—that you have responsibilities to her as well as to yourself. It also means you have to convince yourself that those responsibilities are not in conflict with each other.

The priority now, of course, is your sister. You must ensure you or your brother is always around to help her in case of emergencies. You must ensure, too, that there are enough funds to cover her medical expenses. Despite all those, you don't have to put your life on hold for her. If you feel you must scout for a new job, then do so. And if you have been paying for an educational plan, then continue doing so without guilt.

Just remember that as long as you are honest and fair, you do not deprive your sister anything every time you do something for yourself. Remember, too, that your sister herself would want you to be happy and to find your true self and true calling. I'm sure she would not want to have on her conscience the thought that you failed to bloom, that you neglected your potentials, because of her.

Are you a codependent? Your history of having an alcoholic father, your relationship with your mother and, to some extent, with your younger sister could prompt some people to entertain the possibility you are one. Some people would also probably attribute your bouts of depression to codependency. If you want to explore that possibility, I could give you the name of a good psychiatrist to help you.

In the meantime, avoid feeling obliged to have yourself classified as this or that. You're you. Viewed from the perspective of what you have been and what you are now to your family, you are a good person. And if the kind of person you can or will be depends much on what you have been in the past, then tomorrow or next year or next decade, you will be a good person still. I don't think you can ever be selfish.

E-mail the author at titadulce@netscape.net or send letters to P.O. Box 2353, Makati CPO 1263 Makati City, or PDI, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City.

Sotto and Jaworski: Look who's texting

(From page D1)

democratic call, the text generation will have a new cause. It's Text Power all over again.

Sotto and Jaworski, too, are the least qualified to push for such a measure. They voted to suppress the truth, didn't they? Now they reap the wages of their choice. Quite clearly, what they want now is nothing but revenge. Please pass so they know we know.

'Wooly-bully' of Cebu

CLAUDINE Trillo, Jason Webb and **Bianca Araneta** are considering filing a counter-suit against a Cebu businessman who has filed a case against them in connection with a traffic altercation in Cebu City recently.

Trillo said they have met with lawyers to finalize the suit. The three are shocked that **Nelson Go** has turned the tables on them over a mishap at the Waterfront Hotel last December.

Trillo said they were guests of Cebu promoter **Adrian Ding** for the anniversary of the Abbey bar. Ding drove them around the city and they were on their way back to Waterfront when they were rear-ended by the car driven by Go.

Trillo said that instead of apologizing, Go, who was apparently drunk, arrogantly blamed the crash on Ding and hurled invectives at the group. During the stalemate, Go phoned his media pals who forthwith came to the scene.

When the media men saw Webb, they heckled him, according to **Tim Yap**, who had come from the hotel to check the commotion with **Joey Mead**. A Cebu radio man, **Choy Torralba**, hit Webb and taunted him about the Vizconde case.

Later, Go called a press conference, accusing the Manila guests of harassing him. He also filed a case against them, even including Mead in the suit although the former veejay was a bystander.

Ding has filed a counter-suit against Go.

A toast to 'Tuhog'

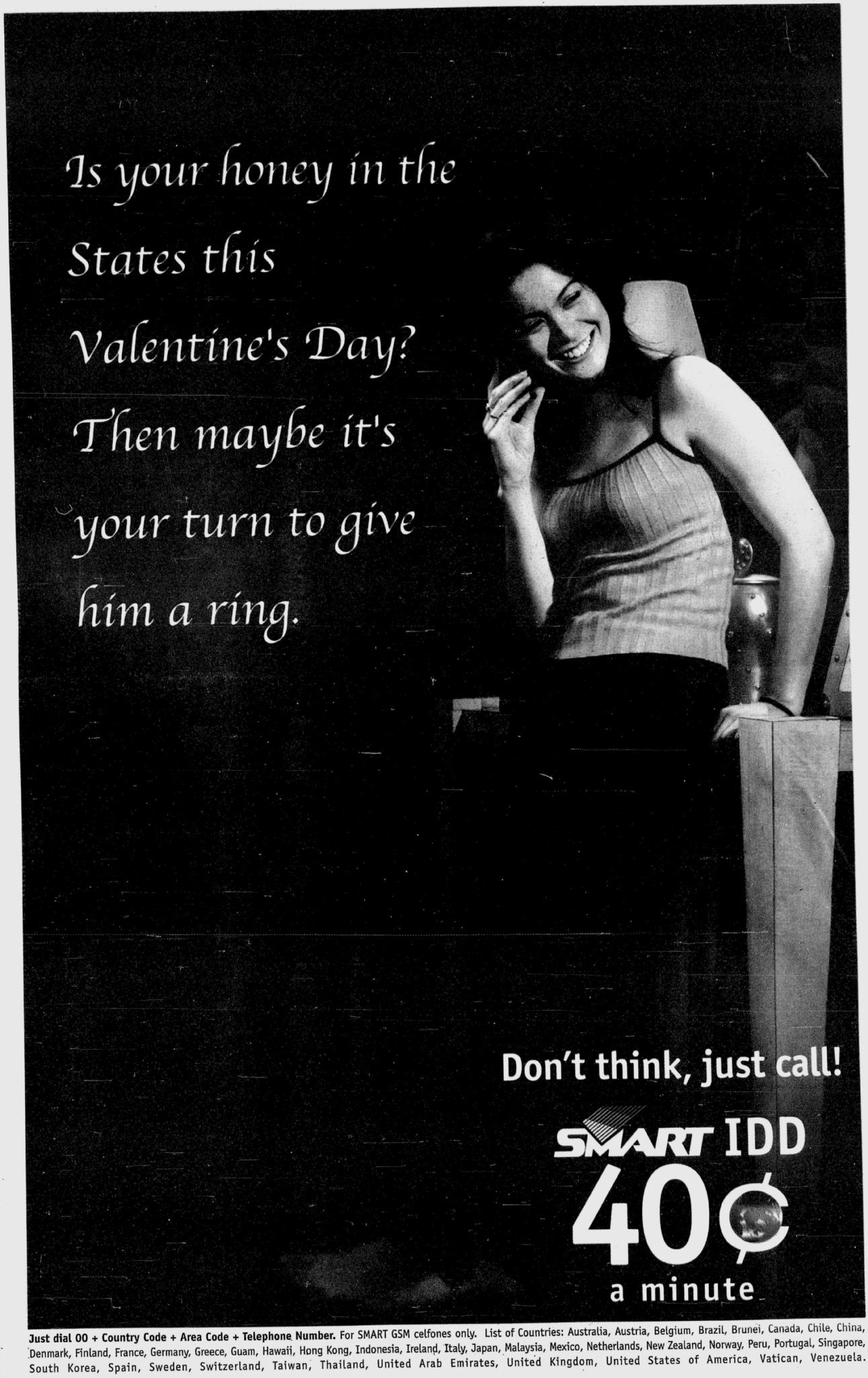
CATCH "Tuhog" when it is premiered by the UP Film Center on Thursday at 7 p.m. The two previous screenings late last year and last month have generated strong buzz that cuts across generations and social classes. The movie, produced by Regal Films, directed by **Jeffrey Jeturian** and written by **Armando Lao**, is the highly moving story of a woman and her daughter abused by a patriarch. They sell the rights to their story to a studio. But much to their horror, they watch a movie that trivializes their experience and leaves them feeling abused again.

The movie contains well-orchestrated scenes that have left audiences either moved with emotion or breathless with laughter. Although the movie has yet to be commercially released, it has qualified for this year's Gawad Urian by virtue of a special commercial screening last year. Members of the Manunuri ng Pelikulang Pilipino, which hands out the award, agree the movie is easily a front-runner.

From riches to rags

? WHO is this scion from the Visayas who has reportedly lost all his fortune? Whoever thought that this flamboyant and eccentric man who loved to wear pink fur coats (yes, in this weather), traveled in a white stretch limousine, caroused with basketball players, had a merry-go-round in his garden, and spent millions on jewelry, would lose it all? He is reportedly staying with his favorite household help who, because of his generosity, was able to build a P12-million house.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE



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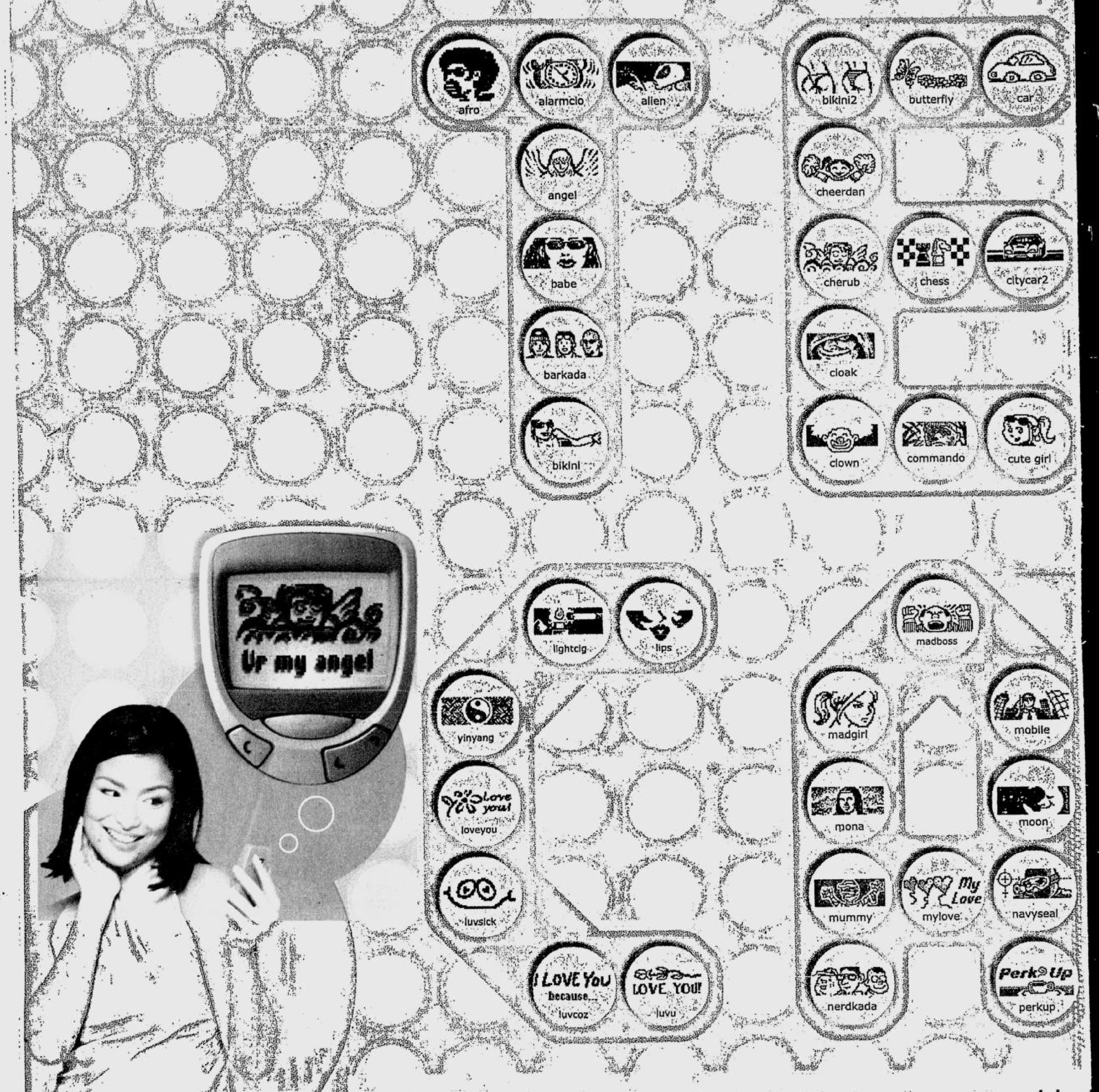
What comes next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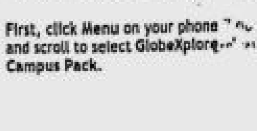

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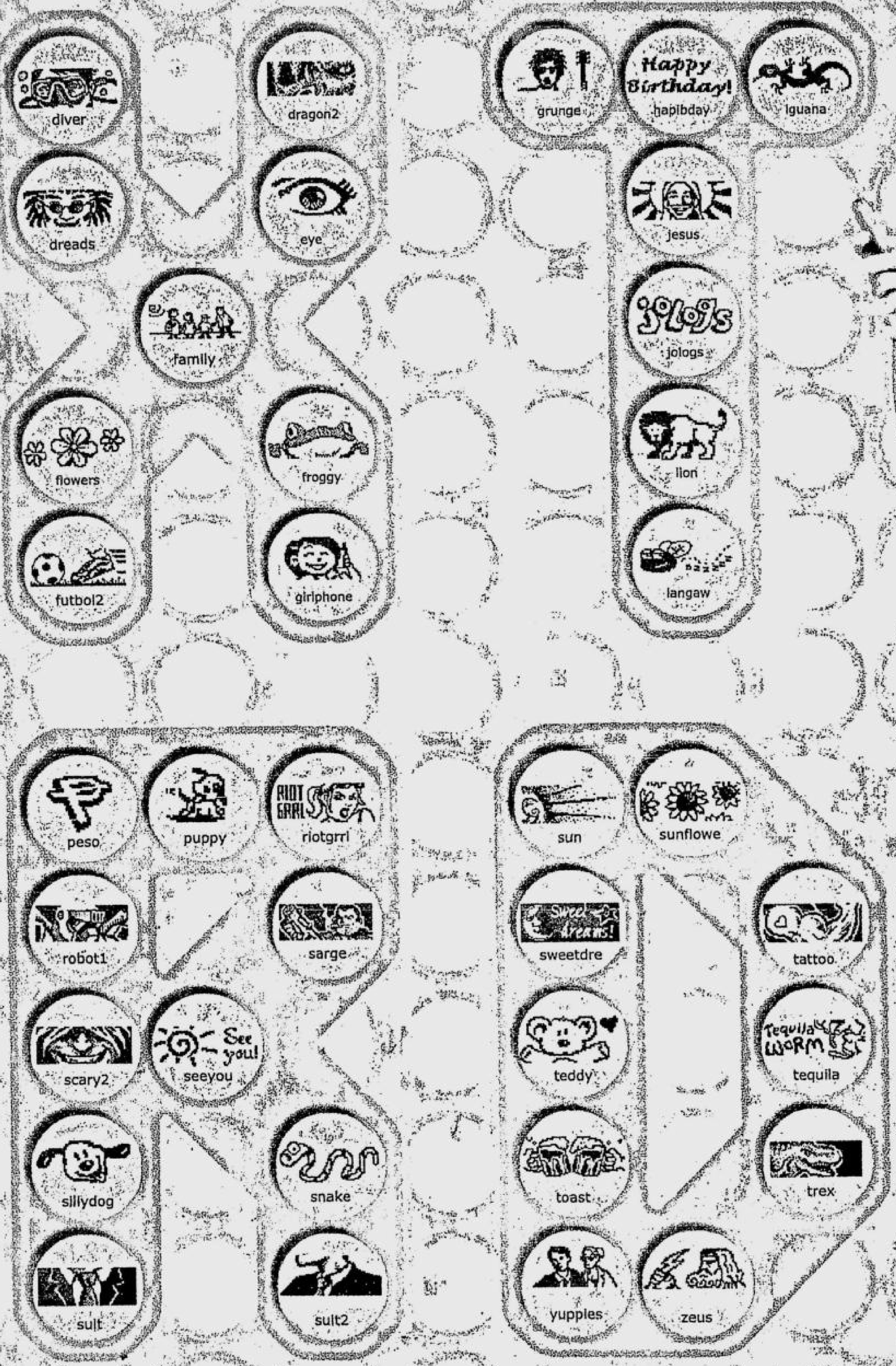

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TRAVEL

ROSARIO A. GARCELLANO, Editor

Take the 'Trail of the Great Bear'

By Richard Pennick

THERE are still places where the grizzly bear roams free and the West's spirit lives on in history and heritage, waiting for you to explore and experience.

The "Trail of the Great Bear," one of Brewster's Discovery Drive Programs, is an ecotourism initiative in Canada featuring historic sites, scenic roadways and intact ecosystems. Itineraries highlight aboriginal perspectives, western lifestyles and personalized learning experiences.

This seven-night itinerary from Calgary features the Waterton Lakes, Glacier National Park, Fort Steel, Panorama, Lake Louise, Banff and the Columbia Ice Field, with a major focus on the grizzly bear as part of the Year of the Great Bear.

The Year of the Great Bear is a heritage tourism initiative aimed at protecting intact National Park ecosystems through education and environmental stewardship. This year, more than 100 public- and private-sector tourism partners are demonstrating their commitment by offering visitors more than 5,000 interpretative and educational opportunities to understand the significance of the grizzly as an indicator of ecosystem health in the mountain west.

Brewster is a major sponsor, and its Trail of the Great Bear program is a great way to experience some pretty impressive territory, and the Year of the Great Bear!

Brewster's Discovery Drive programs allow participants to explore the National Parks and include all arrangements from car rental to accommodations.

Guests will receive a Discovery Drive Information Kit containing road maps and brochures, selected admissions to sites and attractions, and reference material describing the areas traveled through.

For more information on the Trail of the Great Bear, go to www.trailofthegreatbear.com.

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09-11 March *ILOCOS "Rediscovery"*
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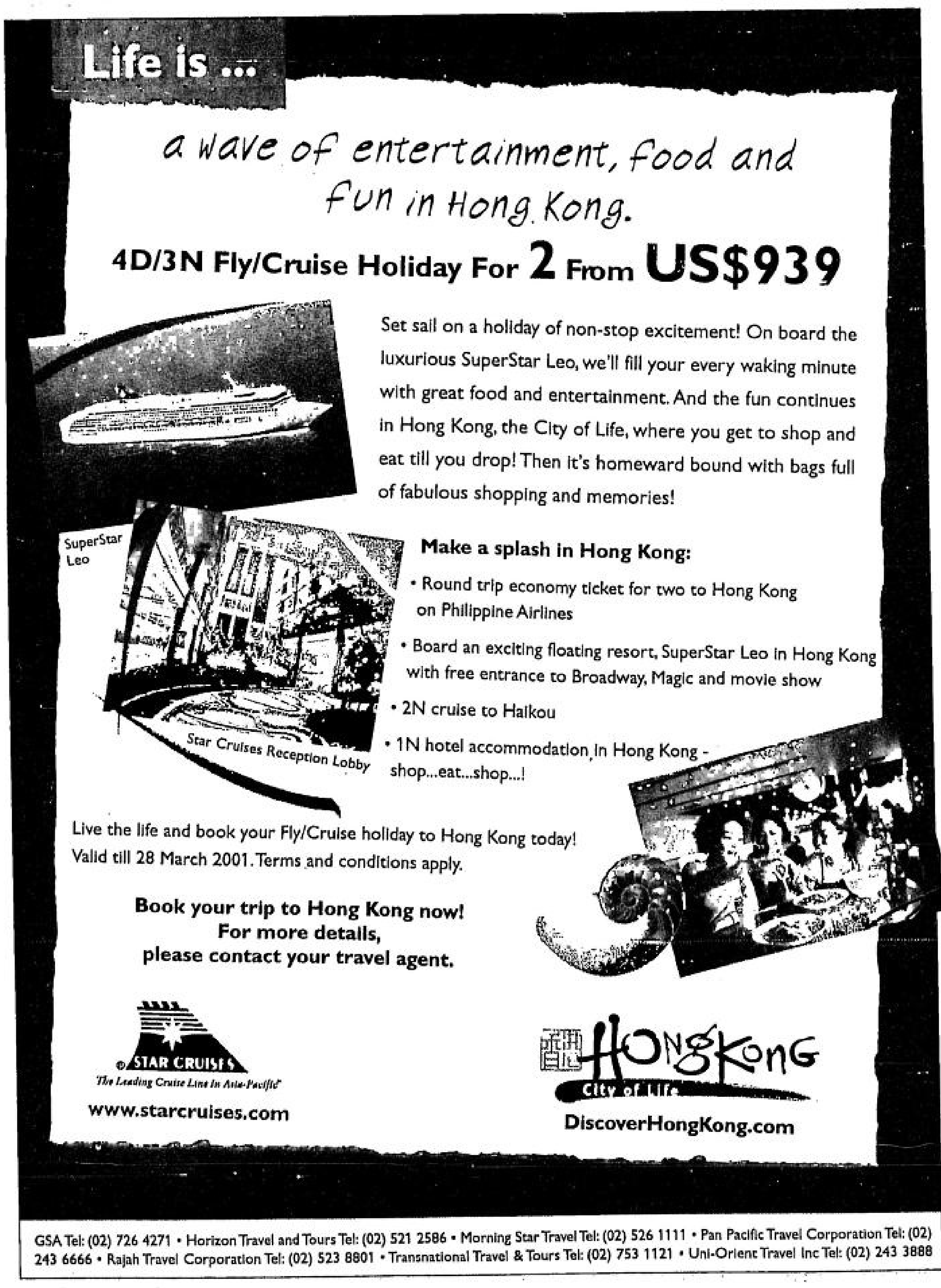

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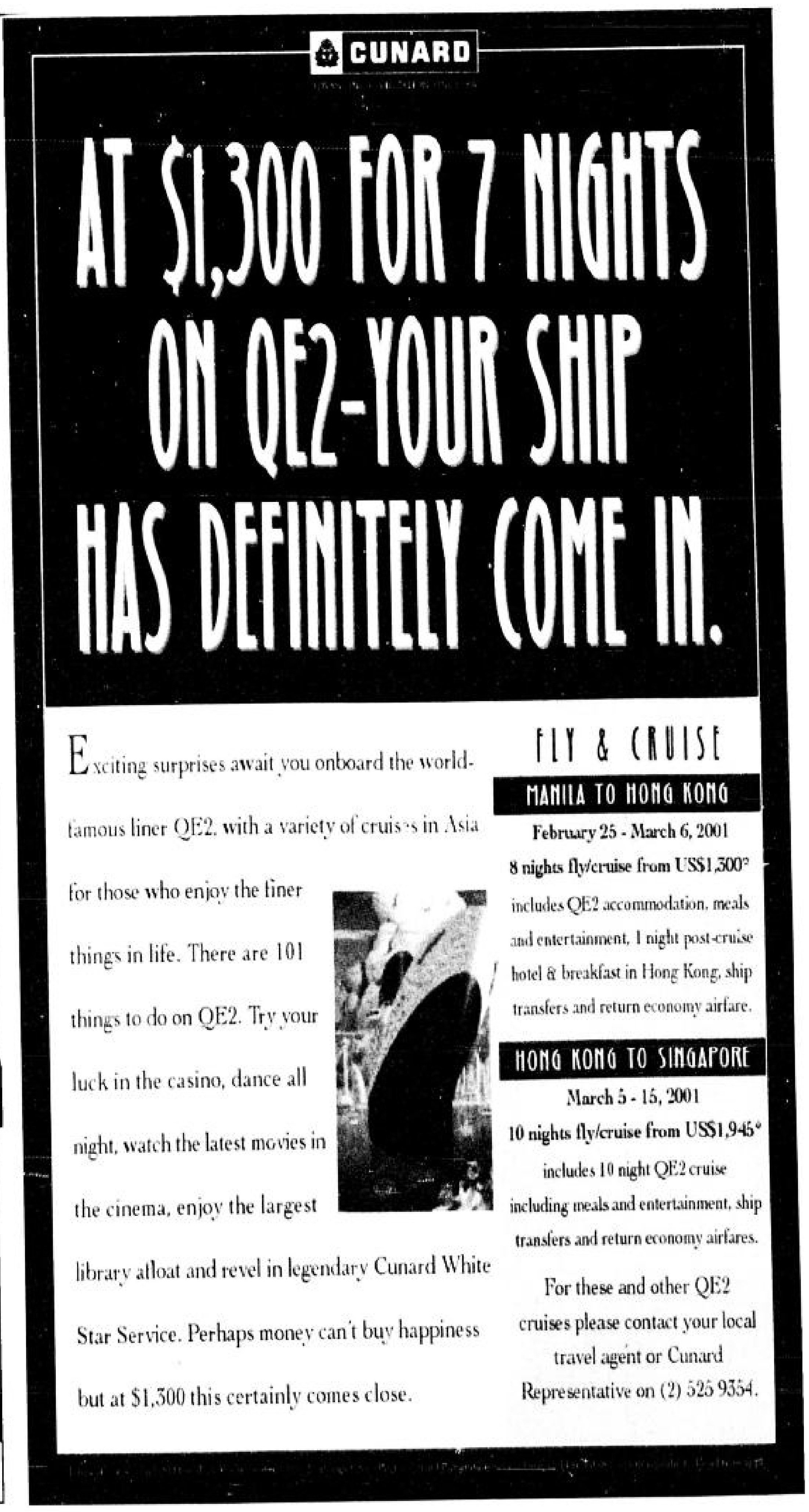

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For these and other QE2 cruises please contact your local travel agent or Cunard Representative on (2) 525 9354.

The burgeoning business of selling the world

By Angelina G. Goloy

SO you want to travel. Of all the places in this whole wide world, where do you start? How do you chart your course so that you get to see and do as much as your time and resources will permit?

Airlines and travel agencies give advice and assistance on itinerary and bookings. Occasionally they team up with hotels and tour operators in organizing promotional package tours, which include air fare, hotel accommodation and a city tour. Promotional tours, however, are seasonal, offered to perk up lean months.

In highly developed travel markets such as Europe and America, there are tour packages available all year round, or at least longer than the validity period of promotional tours. A traveler simply chooses a package, much like buying merchandise, and looks forward to a hassle-free trip.

As with most 21st century goods and services, these tour packages are available on the e-market. In the Philippines and a few other countries, where online buying and selling still hasn't caught on, travelers prefer conventional person-to-person transactions.

This creates a viable market for WorldRep Inc., a company selling different kinds of land arrangements, put together by different operators around the world. General manager Rafael Zosa likens its business to that of an authorized local distributor of a product sold worldwide and marketed through dealers, in this case, travel agencies.

These arrangements can include sightseeing tours either around the city and/or to specific attractions, airport transfers and accommodations at a hotel of the traveler's choice (options are listed, according to class, room sharing arrangements, with corresponding rates).

Stopover or side tours may also be arranged, as well as incentives for small groups. Travelers may also decide to arrange for hotel accommodations only and pay before they depart.

Air fare is not included. WorldRep prefers that travelers ask their travel agents to handle flight bookings and other travel documents. It is not out to compete with travel agents, who are the main source of its business.

WorldRep, however, takes care of all other inquiries, bookings and confirmations—thus sparing travel agencies the very hassles they, in turn, spare their clients. As dealers, travel agencies get commissions on tours sold. (It's a timely opportunity, considering the worldwide uproar over airlines' cuts in travel agencies' commissions on air fare, as a consequence of online transactions.)

More important, WorldRep provides safer and more secure transactions than Internet sales, Zosa points out, noting that with online transactions, you expose your credit card number and you do not see the persons you are dealing with.

"In person-to-person transactions, you know whom to go after in case there's a hitch in the bookings," he says.

Set up only last November, WorldRep offers as its initial product tour packages to various cities in the United States, Canada and Asia, plus stopover packages in Australia.

"Soon we hope to enter the European market," Zosa says.

US/Canada packages currently offered are three-night-four-day tours to San Francisco, Los Angeles, Anaheim, Las Vegas, Chicago, Houston, Dallas, Miami, Orlando, New York and Washington, D.C.

Among the inclusions are whole-day admissions to Disneyland in Anaheim and Universal Studios in Los Angeles, a helicopter tour of Las Vegas, visits to the Space Center in Houston and the World Trade Center in New York City, a Bayside Marketplace coupon book in Miami and a trolley tour of Washington, D.C.

Available until March 31 are three-night-four-day packages (for at least two passengers) to Bangkok, Sydney, Gold Coast, and two-night-three-day packages to the other Australian cities of Brisbane, Darwin, Melbourne and Perth.

"Leisure travelers are our basic market," says Zosa. "So far, the feedback from travel agencies has been quite encouraging."

With the favorable market response, WorldRep will eventually go into other areas that can provide the Filipino traveler more services and information, he says.

"We have a broader customer base than airlines because we deal with all travel agencies, regardless of whether or not they are IATA members," he says.

This is also partly the reason he and his partners chose to set up shop on the "tourist belt" along Adriatico Street in Malate, Manila.

"There is a large concentration of travel agencies here, particularly the established ones," says Zosa, a liberal arts and commerce graduate of De La Salle, with 30 years experience in the industry as executive of airline general sales agents (TravelWide and Trans Pacific).

WorldRep may be reached at tel. no. 527-2460 or 527-2743 or e-mail address: reserve@worldrep-manila.com.

TRAVEL BRIEFS

Tourism forum

GRAND Boulevard (formerly Silahis) Hotel will host Kapihan Turismo sa Grand starting Feb. 7 and every Wednesday thereafter at 8:30-10:30 a.m.

Anna Lozada, the hotel's PR manager, said Kapihan Turismo would provide a weekly forum for members of the press and key players in the tourism industry.

She said tourism leaders would be invited to the forum to exchange views on the industry and its role in the country's economic progress.

Valentine treat

ISLAND Cove Resort & Leisure Park in Kawit, Cavite, is offering a "Valentine at the Cove" promo, which includes discounted room rates and a candlelight dinner complete with wine, flowers for the lady and cigar for the gentleman.

Guests may also partake of a sumptuous breakfast at the Hotel Patio on the following morning.

On Feb. 15, there's "Songs and Laughter at the Cove," a dinner-concert featuring Jun Polistico and Marissa Sanchez.

For inquiries and reservations, call Island Cove at (046) 434-0210; toll-free: 810-3718 or 810-3732; Makati sales office: 810-3728 or 810-3740. Or visit its website at www.islandcovephil.com.

Aseanta Awards

THAI Airways International, Thailand's official carrier and Asia's leading airline, swept the Aseanta Awards during the recent Asean Tourism Forum in Brunei.

Bagging four golds out of a total of seven categories, the airline also won Best Asean Cultural Preservation Effort for having painted one of its 747-400 aircraft with a graphic rendition of the Suphannahong, the royal barge, to mark the King's 72nd birthday.

It also won Best New Tourism Attraction for its one-of-a-kind Underwater Wedding Project, and its Royal Orchid Holidays was named Best Airline Program.

Created in 1969 to help promote tourism in Thailand and Asia, the Royal Orchid Holidays has become Asia's largest and most successful airline-sponsored package tour operation.

Thai Airways International may be reached at 812-4744/243-2645, or at its website, www.thaiairways.com.

Special travel deals

QANTAS Airways' popular special offer to see and experience Australia for US$599 is back for the months of February and March.

The package includes round-trip economy air fare, three nights accommodation, daily breakfasts, and round-trip coach transfers to and from the airport and hotel.

Travelers can fly to the city of their choice—Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne, Gold Coast, or Adelaide—and enjoy a free bonus option depending on their destination. They may choose from a one-day Explorer Bus tour in Sydney, a Paddle-wheeler Lunch Cruise in Brisbane, a delicious meal at Hard Rock Café in Melbourne or Gold Coast, and a half-day scenic Hahndorf Tour in Adelaide.

Qantas is also offering another special package for those who want to visit Auckland, New Zealand, then get a free stop in Sydney. This two-in-one deal goes for US$978.

Various optional tours in both Auckland and Sydney may be arranged for a minimum fee.

For inquiries or reservations, call Qantas Holidays at 812-3734 or fax 812-9926.

NEW YEAR MERRYMAKERS

Adrian Harley, country manager (Philippines) of Cathay Pacific Airways, says cheese with Masskara dancers. As part of its commitment to promote Philippine tourism, the airline recently flew a 20-member Masskara group from Bacolod City to Hong Kong to join the Filipino contingent in the Chinese New Year parade.

CITY OF FLOWERS

Baguio is gearing for its annual flower festival, a brainchild of the Camp John Hay Development Corp. aimed at beefing up the city's reputation as a major tourist destination. One of the festival highlights is the floral parade, complete with marching bands, on Session Road. To enjoy the beauty of Baguio and its flowers, Causeway Tours is holding a group trip on Feb. 17-18. For inquiries, call 853-8652 or 853-8728.

180 DEGREES

For many transpacific passengers, Asiana Airlines' Sleeper Class seat, with its 180-degree recline, has been the only way to fly. The airline, Korea's second national carrier, is expanding its target market and route network as it ushers in Visit Korea Year. Korea was the Philippines' third largest tourism market last year, topping Taiwan and Hong Kong.

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

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See flyers for details.

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Cebu
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the apo view
Davao
893-9151

P699 NET
HONEYCOMB
Dumaguete
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P999 NET
SARABIA MANOR HOTEL & CONVENTION CENTER
Iloilo
(033)335-1021

P899 NET
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Makati
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P1,200 NET
CENTURY PRIMETOWN TOWER MAKATI
Makati
750-3010

P1,500 NET
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P2,000 NET
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Sunday LIFESTYLE

Weddings Engagements

TODA-TRINIDAD NUPTIALS

So sure... on a most uncertain day

BY ANTON SAN DIEGO

JAN. 17 was an auspicious day for Filipinos for it was the second day of People Power 2. But it was especially more significant for Bengy and Monique Trinidad Toda who united their hearts and lives that very day.

Bengy and Monique Toda exchanged vows at the San Antonio Church at Forbes Park. She wore a beautiful gown done by Auggie Cordero in ivory color, with Swarovski crystals, beadings and a cathedral veil. The wedding was not your usual event: Flowers did not dominate the scene and postwedding pictorials were omitted, giv-

SO SURE/ p.E6

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On the other hand, those who want to simply enjoy the Lion City can take advantage of the four-day/three-night Singapore Package at $799 for two. The package includes roundtrip Manila-Singapore economy airfare on Singapore Airlines, hotel accommodation, daily breakfasts, roundtrip airport/hotel transfers, and a choice of three of the following: the City Experience Tour, Singapore River Boat Tour, and admissions to the Singapore Zoological Gardens, Night Safari, Jurong Bird Park, Underwater World (Sentosa) and Images of Singapore (also in Sentosa). The first 300 passengers of this package can claim a free limited edition Swatch watch.

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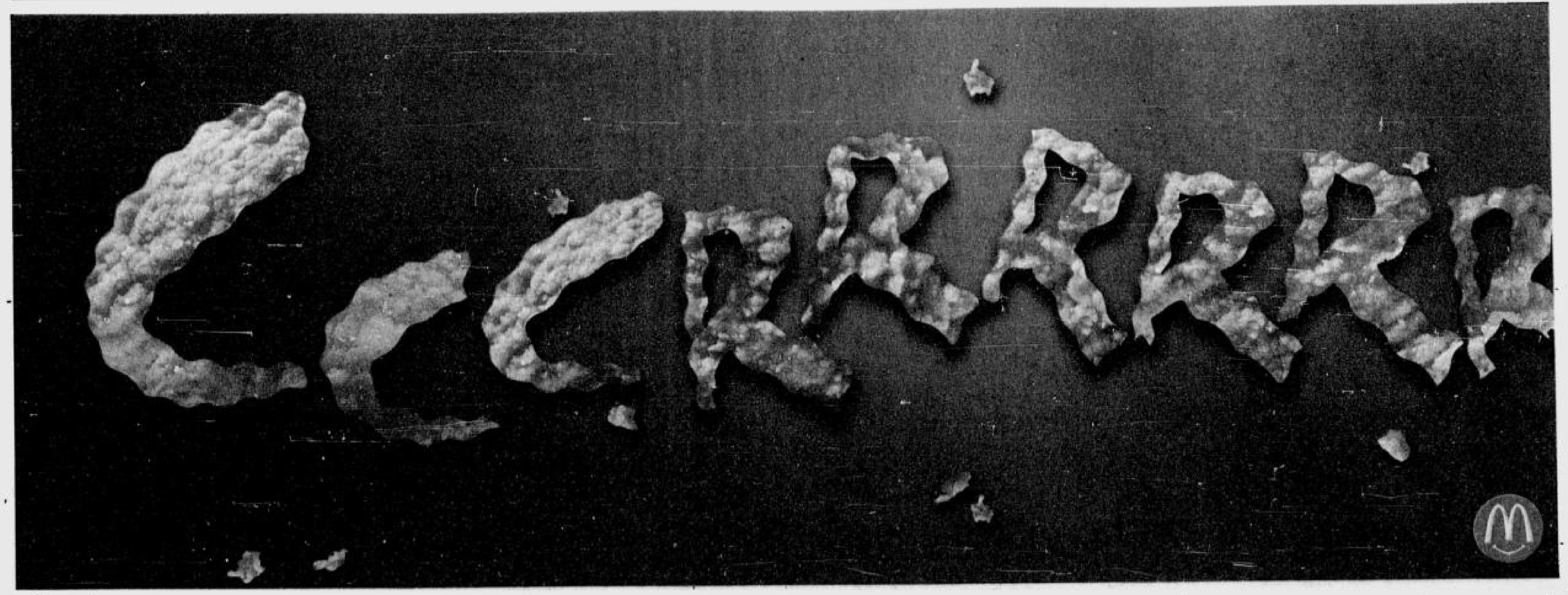
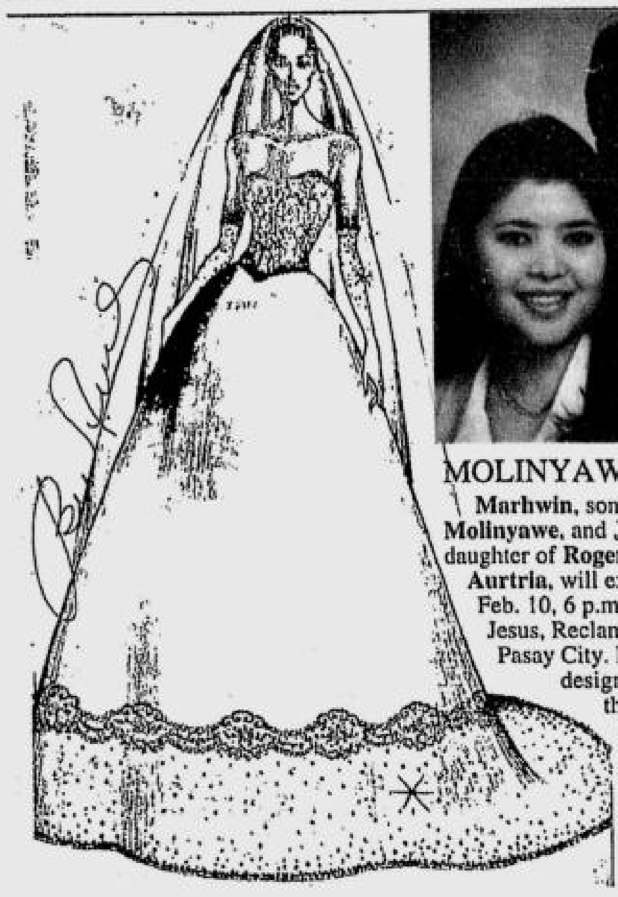


Milestones

We're accepting announcements of weddings and engagements. Please send the following typewritten information: names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, gown designer and other related information. Readers can send sketches of gowns and pictures of the couple at least two weeks before the wedding. This will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the sender.

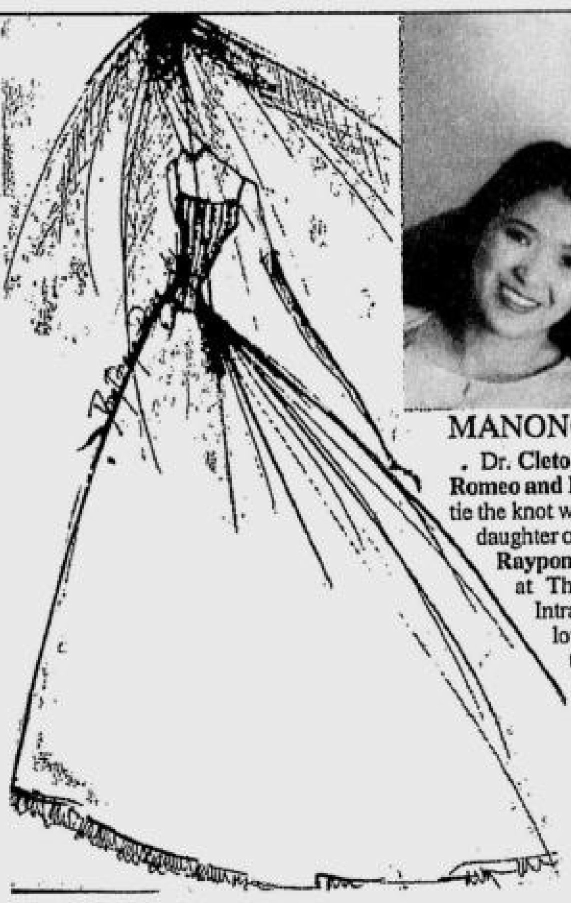


MOLINYAWE-AURTIA

Marhwin, son of **Ray** and **Tita Molinyawe**, and **Jennifer Joyce**, daughter of **Roger** and **Violeta Aurtria**, will exchange vows on Feb. 10, 6 p.m., at Shrine of Jesus, Reclamation Area, Pasay City. **Ben Farrales** designs the gowns of the bride and the entourage. Reception follows at the Diamond Ballroom, Manila Diamond Hotel.

MANGILIT-ASCUNA

Elrey Mangilit, employee of Lipa City Loans and Savings, and **Rosalie Ascuna**, teacher of St. Mary's Montessori, exchanged wedding vows on Dec. 17 at St. Vincent Ferrer Church, Lipa City. Reception followed at Sawali Hotel and Restaurant.



MANONGAS-RAYPON

Dr. **Cleto Manongas**, son of Dr. **Romeo and Huong Manongas** will tie the knot with Dr. **Maria Aurora**, daughter of **Rolando** and **Aurora Raypon**, on Feb. 25, 3:30 p.m., at The Manila Cathedral, Intramuros. Reception follows at The Manila Hotel's Champagne Ballroom. The bride will wear a duchess satin ensemble in ecru, accented with a corset bodice embellished with seed pearls and crystals created by **Dong Omaga-Diaz.**

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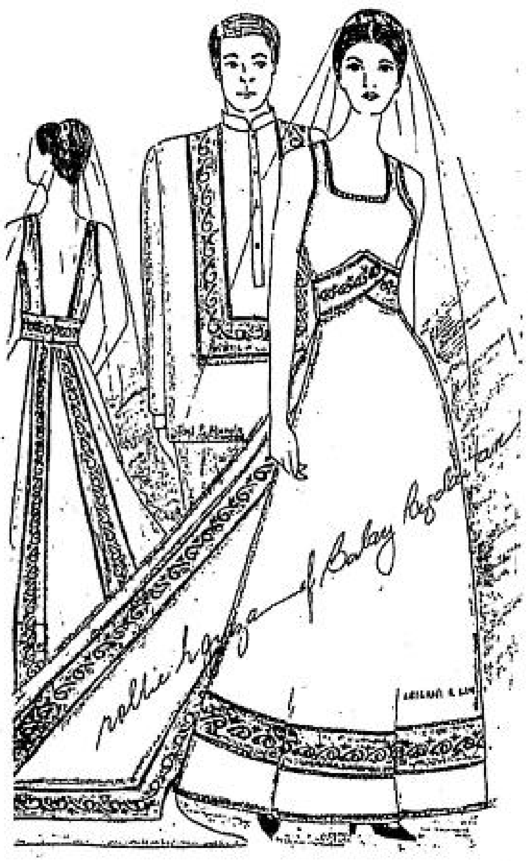

rollie h graza of Balay Pagdaitan

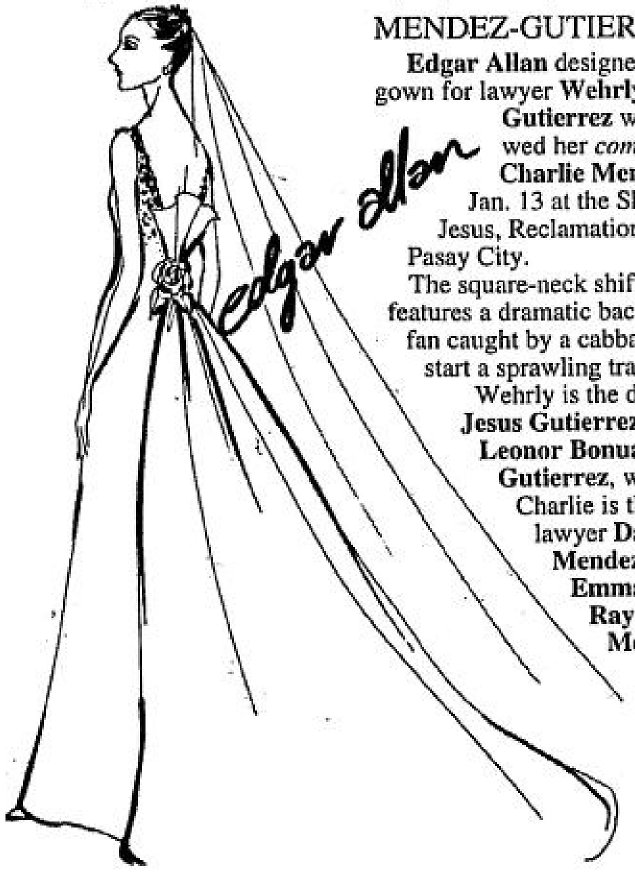
ABENOJA-LIM

Leilani C. Lim, daughter of **Michael P. Lim** and **Luz C. Lim**, will tie the knot with **Joel P. Abenoja**, son of **Felimon Abenoja** and **Teresita P. Abenoja**, on Feb. 10, 9:30 a.m., at the San Agustin Church, Intramuros, Manila. Reception follows at the Ilustrado Restaurant, 744 Calle Real del Palacio corner Gen. Luna St., Intramuros, Manila.

Leila will wear an ecru gown of imported shantung silk, cut low at the back, accentuated with intricate beadwork at the front and back and in the detachable train, designed by **Rollie H. Graza** of Balay Pagdaitan.

BELEN-CASTRO

Dr. **Pocholo P. Belen** and Dr. **Emily Rose A. Castro** tied the knot on Jan. 7 at the St. John Bosco Parish Church, Makati, officiated by Rev. Fr. **Nestor Impelido**. The bride is the daughter of Dr. and Ms **Troy Castro**, while the groom is the son of **Conrado P. Belen**. The bridal gown was designed by **Fred Quilmat**. Reception followed at Heritage Hotel Ballroom.

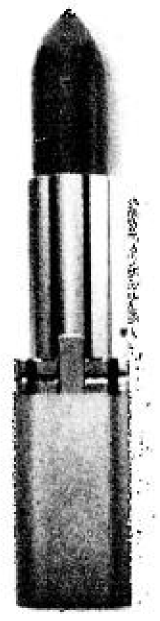
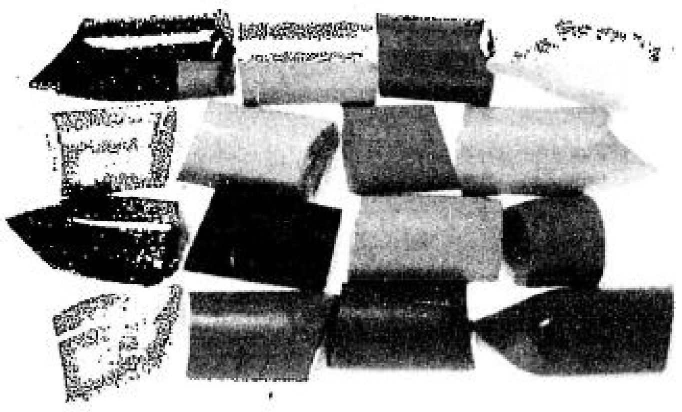


MENDEZ-GUTIERREZ

Edgar Allan designed this regal gown for lawyer **Wehrly Gutierrez** when she wed her *compañero* **Charlie Mendez** on Jan. 13 at the Shrine of Jesus, Reclamation Park, Pasay City.

The square-neck shift gown features a dramatic back of a silk fan caught by a cabbage rose to start a sprawling train.

Wehrly is the daughter of **Jesus Gutierrez** and **Leonor Bonuan Gutierrez**, while Charlie is the son of lawyer **Danilo Mendez** and **Emma Raymundo Mendez**.

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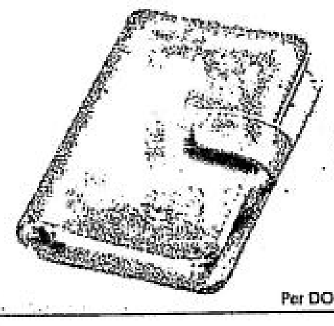

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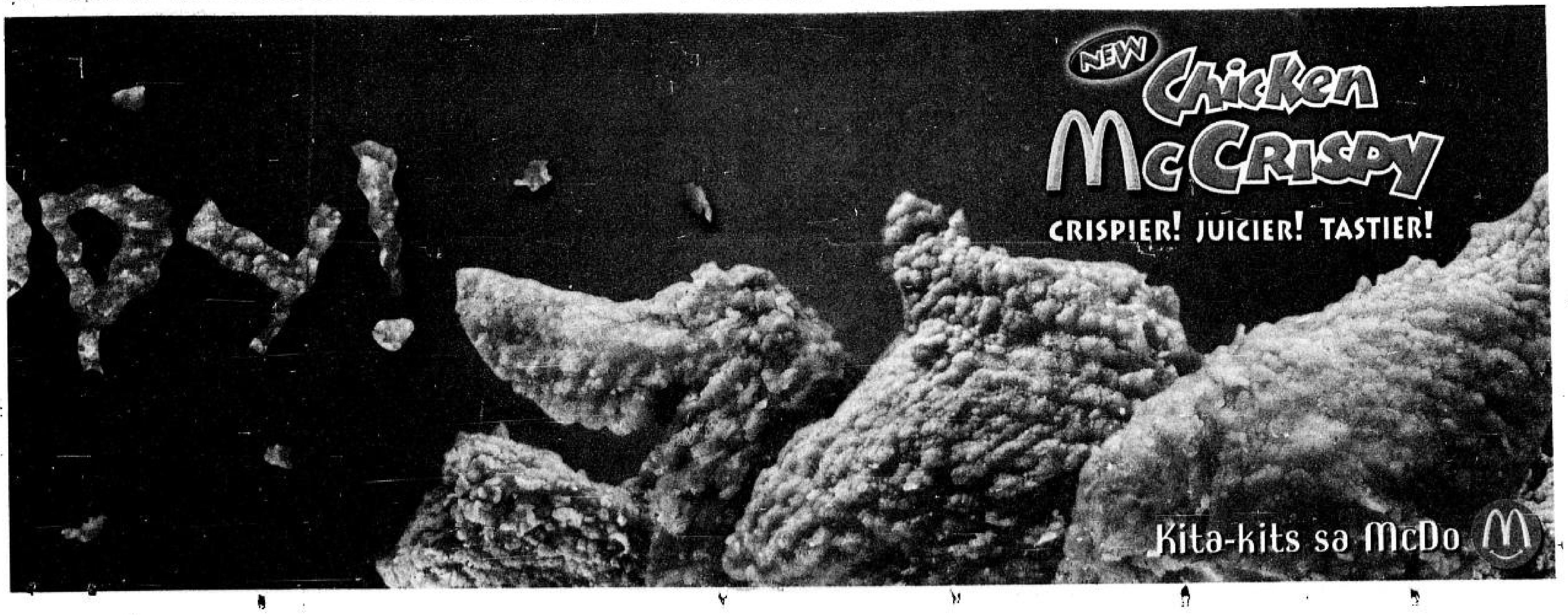
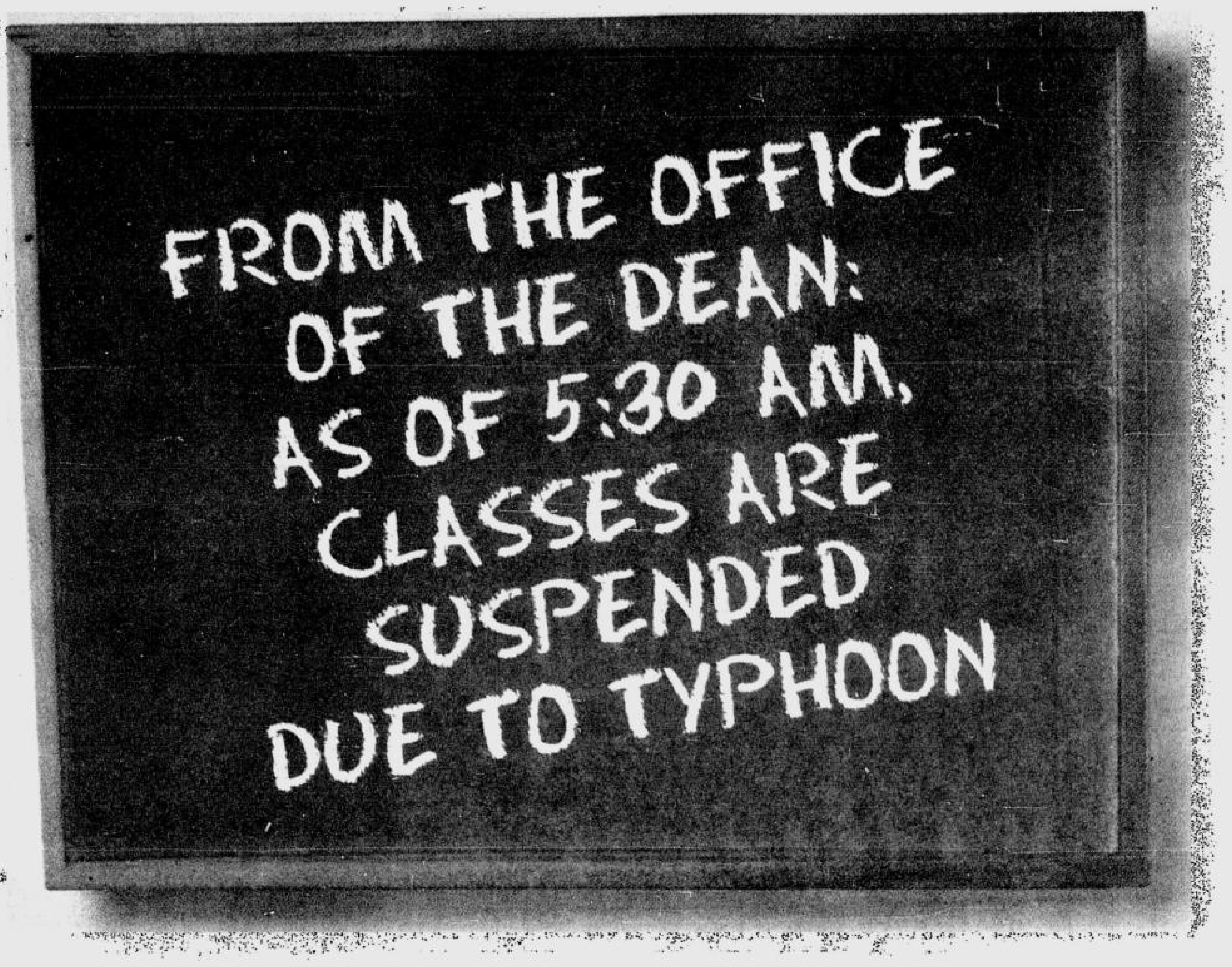


This bulletin board just turned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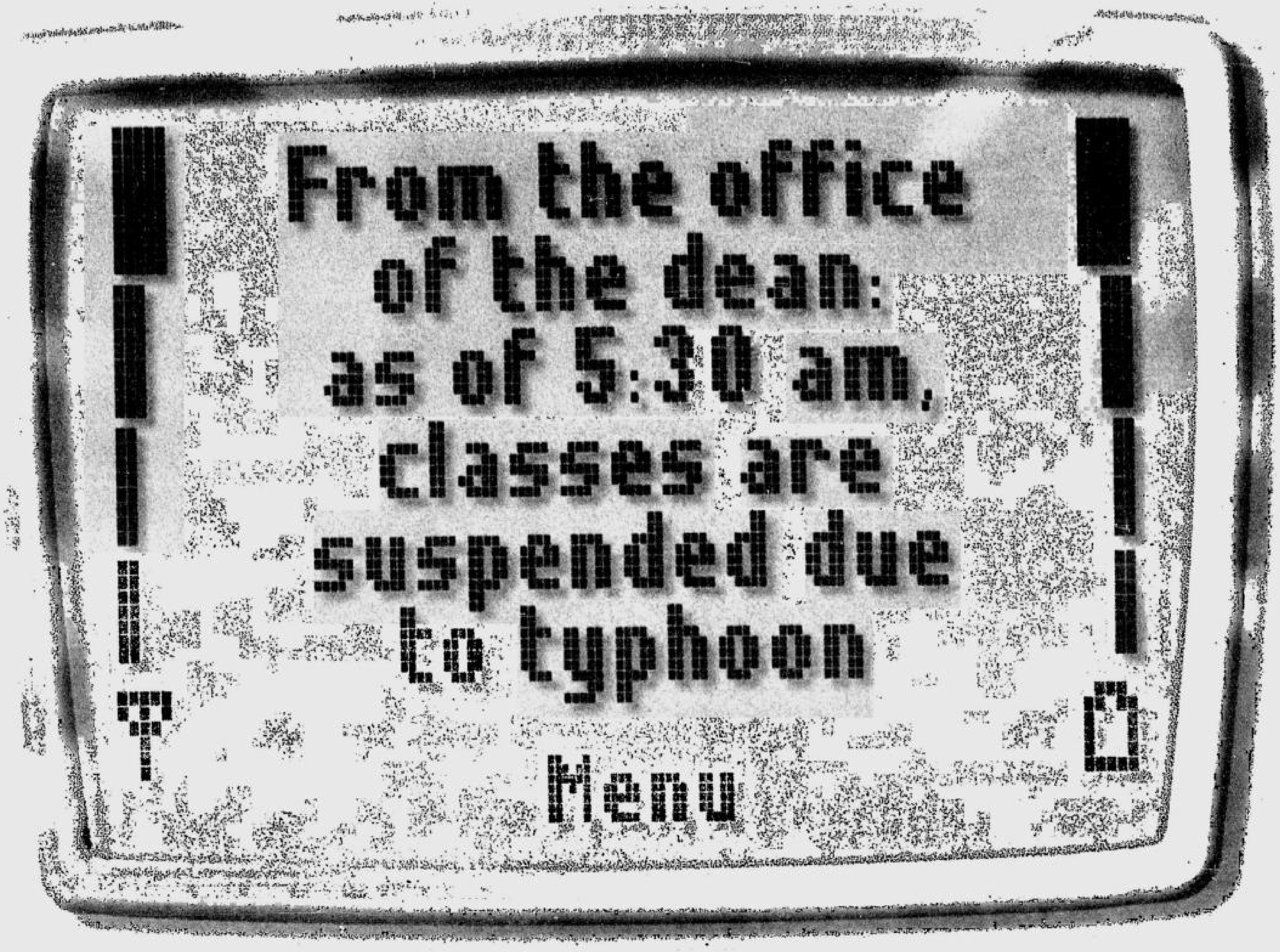

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THE WEDDING party at The Peninsula

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CHUKRI Prieto and Cathy de Guzman

INES Borromeo and Chari Aboitiz

THE BRIDE with Marines Delgado, Victoria Toda, Rose Delgado and Luisa Valdes

IÑIGO Zobel, Al Tengco, Tony Boy Florendo and Vivian Yuchengco

(From page E1)

ing way to a simple yet elegant and intimate wedding.

Guests trooped to The Manila Peninsula for the reception where they were feted to culinary delights by chefs Margarita Fores, Ed Quimson and Buddy Trinidad. There were about 450 selected guests, including some foreign guests who braved the civil turmoil just to celebrate with the newlyweds. The groom's sister, Rose Toda-Delgado, took charge of preparations and every minute detail.

It was quite amazing to see two independent-minded people, so different from each other, become one. Bengy is a free-spirited man who has transformed his hobby of photography and photo processing into a successful business. Monique is a career-oriented woman who is the epitome of beauty and brains combined. She is the director of public relations for New World-Renaissance Hotel.

How did Monique know it was the right time? "When everything started falling into place and there was no feeling of forcing the issue," said Monique. As for what she thought was the secret to a successful marriage, she said, "We accept each other without trying to change the other; otherwise we would have lost the person we fell in love with."

The couple's paths crossed when their friends set up a blind date. What started out as a group gimmick ended with just the two of them going out. They hit it off immediately.

Weddings are always meant to be beautiful. For two people to be united in love and be able to face their destiny as husband and wife is no mean feat. Still, on that most unstable of days, everything felt right. "When I was walking down the aisle," recalled Monique, "I felt neither nervous nor anxious. I was just so sure."

THE NEWLYWEDS with Joe Zubiri

FATHER of the bride Sonny Trinidad gives away daughter Monique to Bengy at the church.

BENGY with best man, nephew Francisco Delgado IV

MONIQUE gets a hug from friend Susan Roxas.

PRINCIPAL sponsors Chu Chu Eduque (proxy for Chito Madrigal-Collantes) and Enrique Zobel

JOSE Pardo and Mila Garcia

Pretty in pink and silver

THE DEBUTANTE with her designer-couturier Eddie Baddeo

IT was fairy-tale magic as Sarabeth Samson Salcedo celebrated her 18th birthday in grand fashion at the Maynila of the Manila Hotel.

Tony Rodriguez turned the place into a monochromatic pink dream of roses, casablancas, asters and lilies. The table was covered with silver tablecloth. Tivoli lights added sparkle to the occasion while giant ficus trees with firefly votive candles on their branches evoked drama.

As guests arrived, they were greeted by beautiful music from a harp played by Holly Paraiso. No one could miss Heny Sison's ethereal masterpiece of pink fondant with a silver pumpkin coach on top and a lladro piece on the second tier. Fr. Roy Evangelista of the Parish of St. Martin de Porres led the invocation before dinner was served.

The debutante wore a pink silk dupioni ball gown embellished with Swarovski crystals and caviar beads, one of two creations Eddie Baddeo made for Sarabeth.

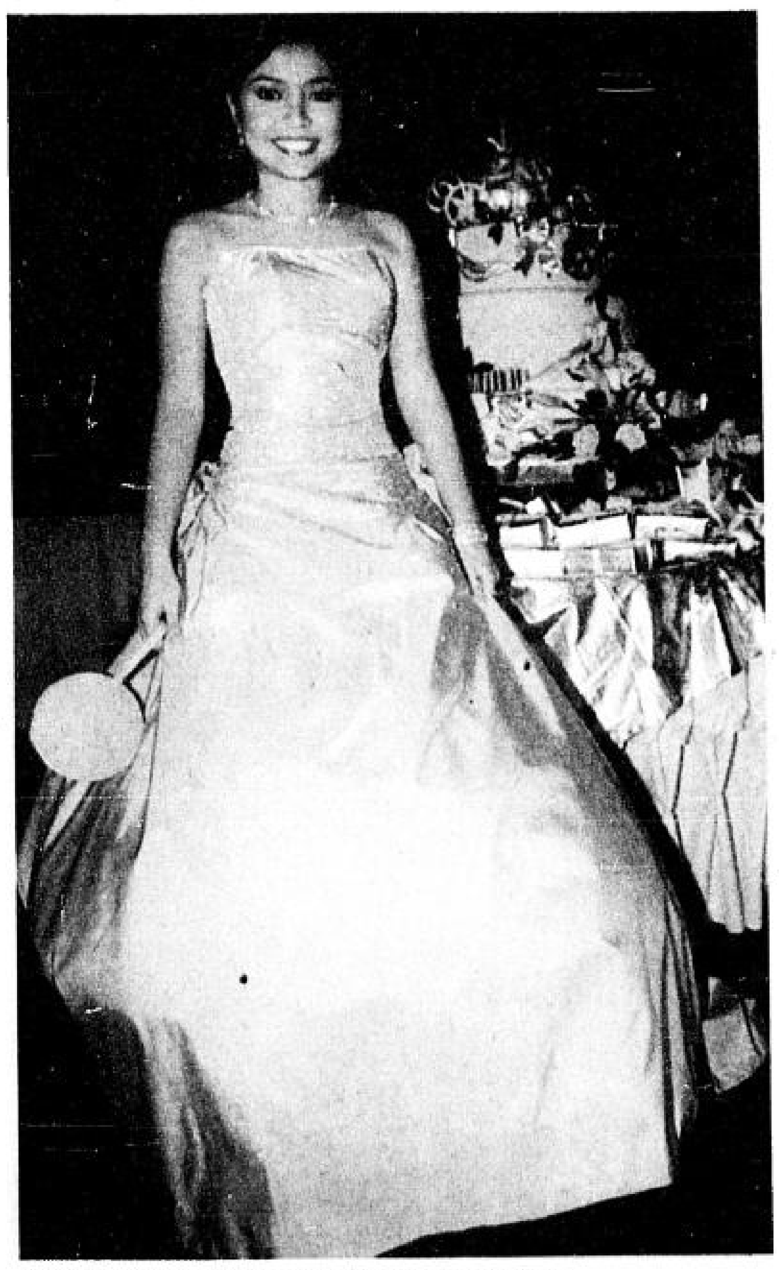
The ceremonies started off with a speech by Edgar Salcedo, father of the debutante. Sarabeth's friends Alex Angara, Kathy Borlongan and Paolo de Castro and brother Ira Mathew presented a video. Capping off the ceremonies was a champagne toast, led by her dad and mom Dolly Samson Salcedo, who donned a burgundy column gown also by Baddeo.

Scions and heiresses of the Drilon, Angara, Laperal, Raymundo, Favila, Sto. Domingo, Vergel de Dios and other prominent families were present.

As the Freestyle band started to dish out their signature hits, the debutante came out in a fuchsia shantung silk gown by Baddeo.

FROM LEFT, brother Ira Mathew, parents Dolly and Edgar Salcedo

SARABETH with friends



SARABETH in her rose pink ball gown by Baddeo

Lourdes National Shrine celebrates golden year

THE NATIONAL Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes on Retiro Street, QC celebrates its golden anniversary with a series of activities ongoing until Feb. 11.

The program of activities include the following: Mass to be officiated by Fr. Ron Ojeda, OFMCap (today); Fr. Alfredo Micua, OFMCap (Feb. 5); Fr. Oscar Ante, OFM (Feb. 6); Msgr. Socrates Villegas (Feb. 7); Msgr. Cesar Pagulayan (Feb.8); and Fr. Regino Cortes, OP (Feb. 9). A torch procession around the shrine follows the daily Mass.

On Feb. 10, there will be a penitential procession at 4:30 a.m. where a reenactment of the solemn transfer of the image of Our Lady of Lourdes from the chapel Sta. Teresita to the Lourdes Church, will be held.

Celebrant and homilist is Fr. Troy de los Santos, OFMCap. There will also be a Mass for the dead members of the Archconfraternity at 9 a.m., to be celebrated by Fr. Roberto San Diego, OFMCap, and a Blessing of the Sick at 5 p.m., to be presided by Bishop Nestor Carino, D.D.

On Feb. 11, a high-noon Mass, to be celebrated by Bishop Ted Buhain Jr., D.D., will be held, to be followed by a grand procession at 5:30 p.m.

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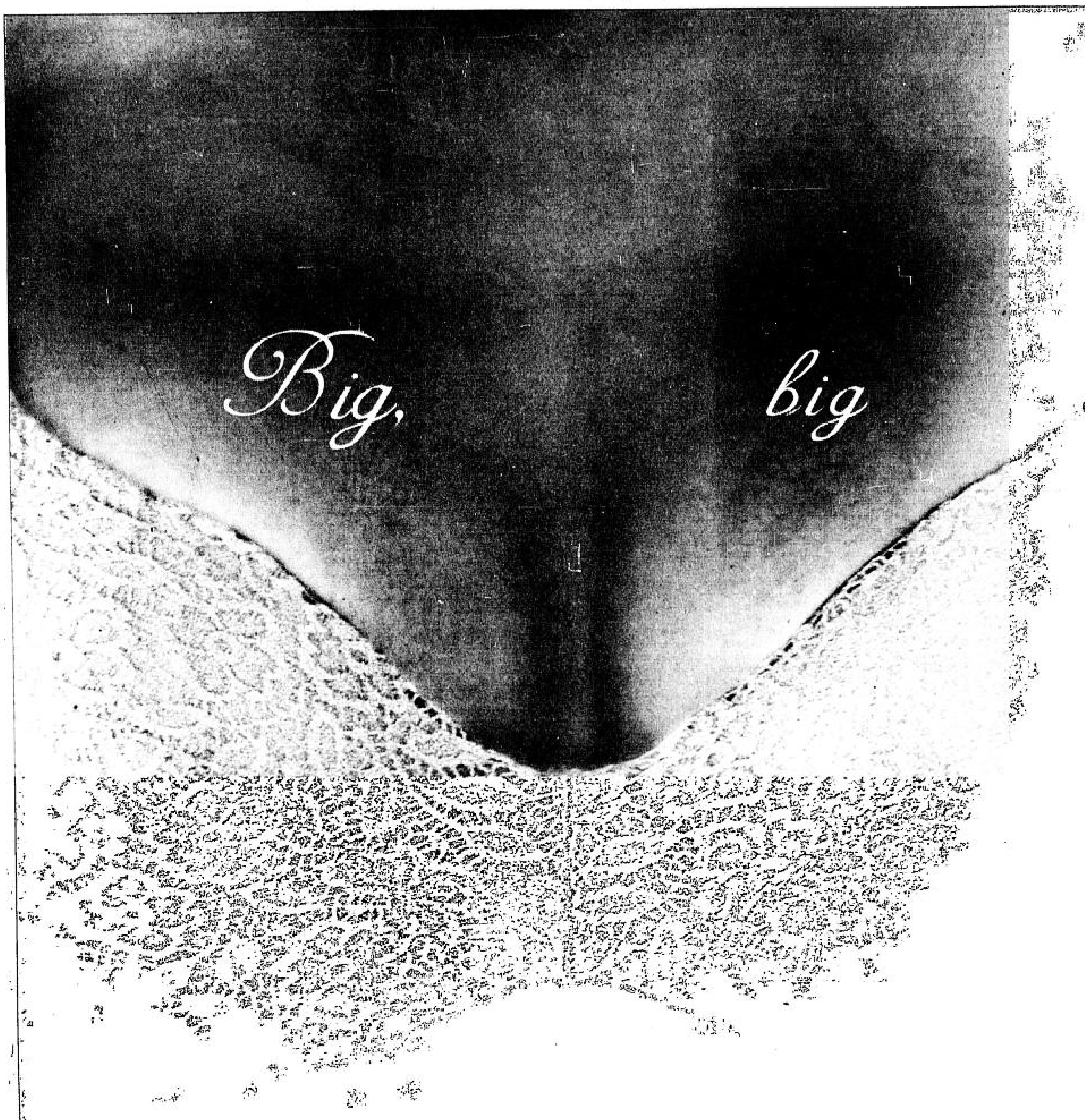

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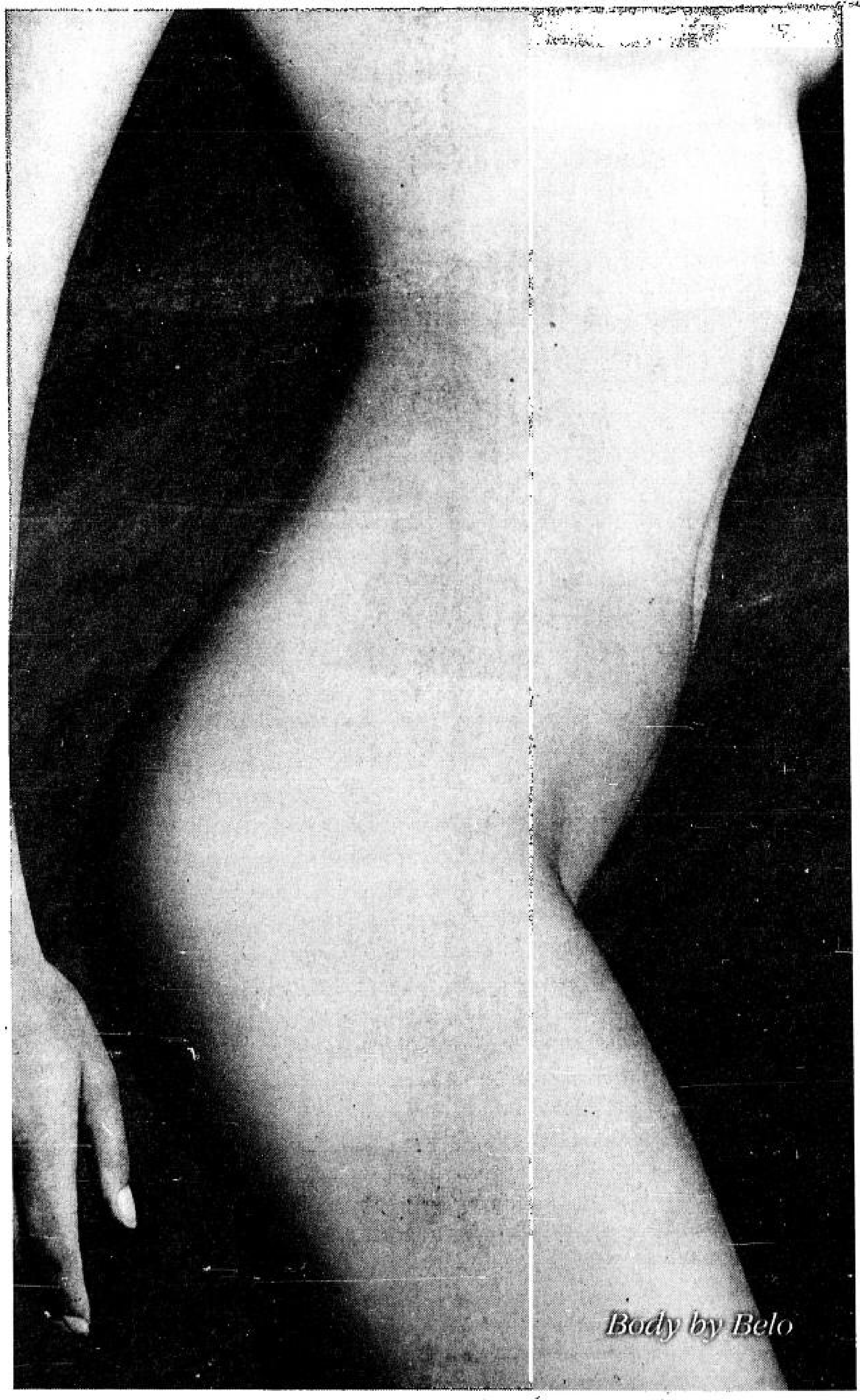

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

Color and other fringe benefits

For most of us, the safest winter bet would be a dark colored coat. However, for most of style-setting Europe, color rightfully stands out as a wonderful winter staple

Story on page F2

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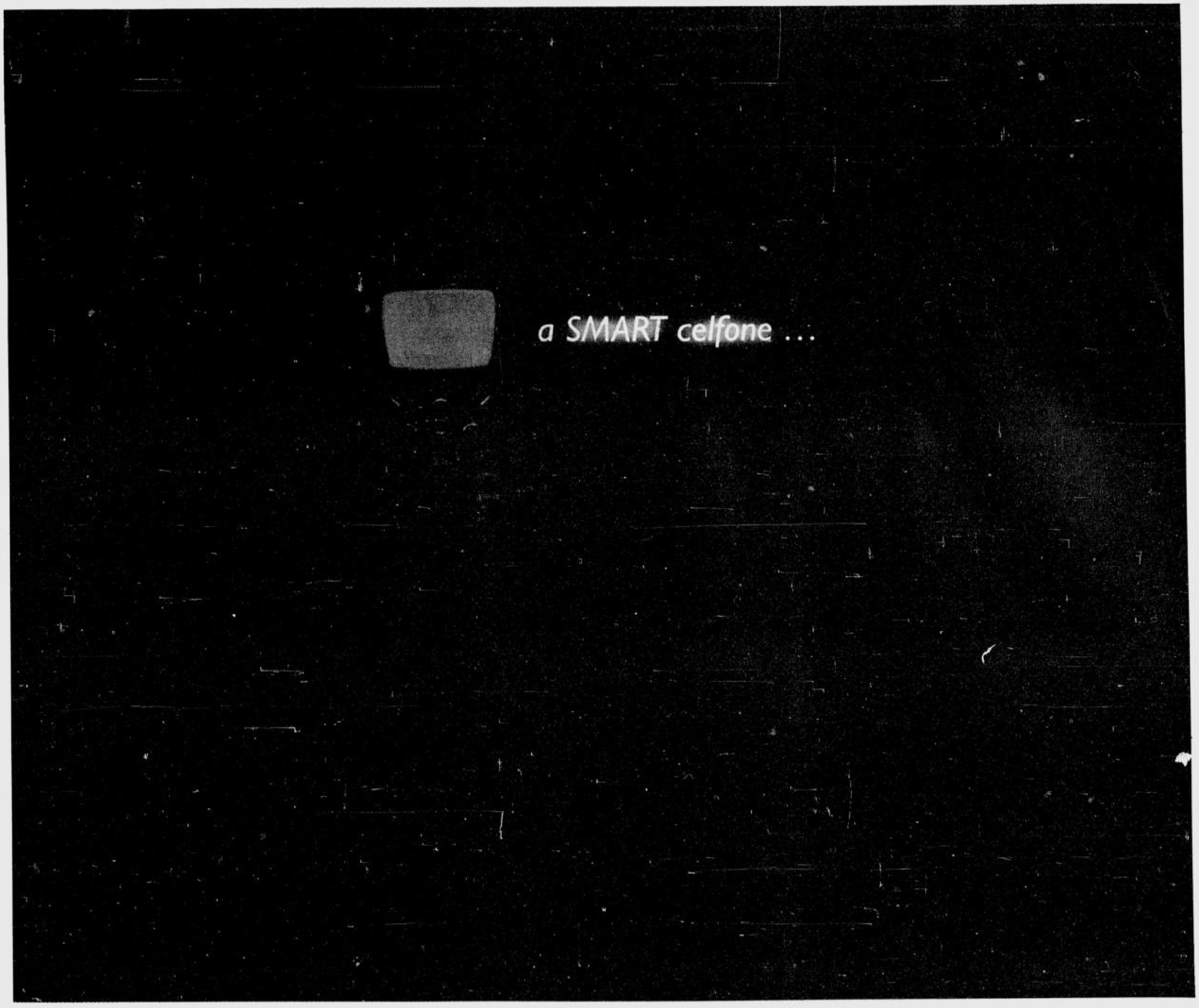

a SMART celfone ...

Color and other fringe benefits

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY KITTY GO

I AM from the school of fashion where black has never been back. In fact, it has never left my wardrobe. However, as I realize every year but never learn (after all, you can't teach an old diva new tricks), color is THE punch a winter wardrobe always needs. Color—and ostentatious jewelry.

Nothing brightens a black leather jacket like a hot pink scarf. In Rome this winter, I saw a woman in a red coat and I thought she looked so bright and SO RIGHT.

So convinced was I of the virtues of color that I was ready to plunk down good money for a Bruno Magli orange suede jacket only to find out it was lined with mink. (Despite my love of fashion, there is one thing other than stirrup pants that I cannot bring myself to wear and that is real fur.)

Once again with fashion, the Europeans know better. Well, in some cases the Japanese. Pink, purple and red abound among the youth. Even lowly jeans get a new fashionable life with color. Ever since Christian Dior came out with the J'adore ad featuring a choker-clad minimalist Cleopatra, wide dog-collar style chokers had never seen more exposure since Victorian times. And I love them. The idea of not being able to breathe or cough without shattering a necklace only helps me to behave in a more refined manner. It also keeps me from laughing and talking too loud, both of which are socially abhorring traits which usually get me thrown into social Siberia (and with no fur!).

E-mail the author at styledowager@hotmail.com.

WHAT did I tell you about color in winter? Color and fringes were probably the most popular looks in Rome.

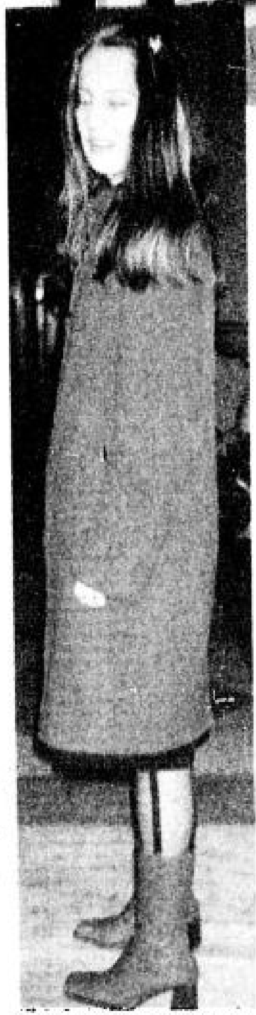
AND don't forget the biggest fashion essential—a gigantic red beaded ring from Naples.

WINTER'S BEST. This is by far the best outfit I've seen on the streets this winter. The mix of textures is fantastic—suede and curly lamb jacket over rose corduroy trousers and red cowboy boots.

FUCHSIA and rust—who would have thought that would work?

AT LEAST this one can laugh without busting the pearls.

A LAVENDER scarf breaks the monotony of black and cream.



THE RED coats have come to Rome with matching boots. Note the solid line on her sheer black tights.

FOR THE LOVE OF COLOR. See what a scarf can do to old navy! Tapestry-inspired accessories like this butterfly hobo bag may be the next big thing. Not to mention the red jacquard camera bag which is a nice change from the oh-so-out bowling bag.

GIRLS in the hood of Les Halles, Paris. In France, not even the very young are spared from stylishness.

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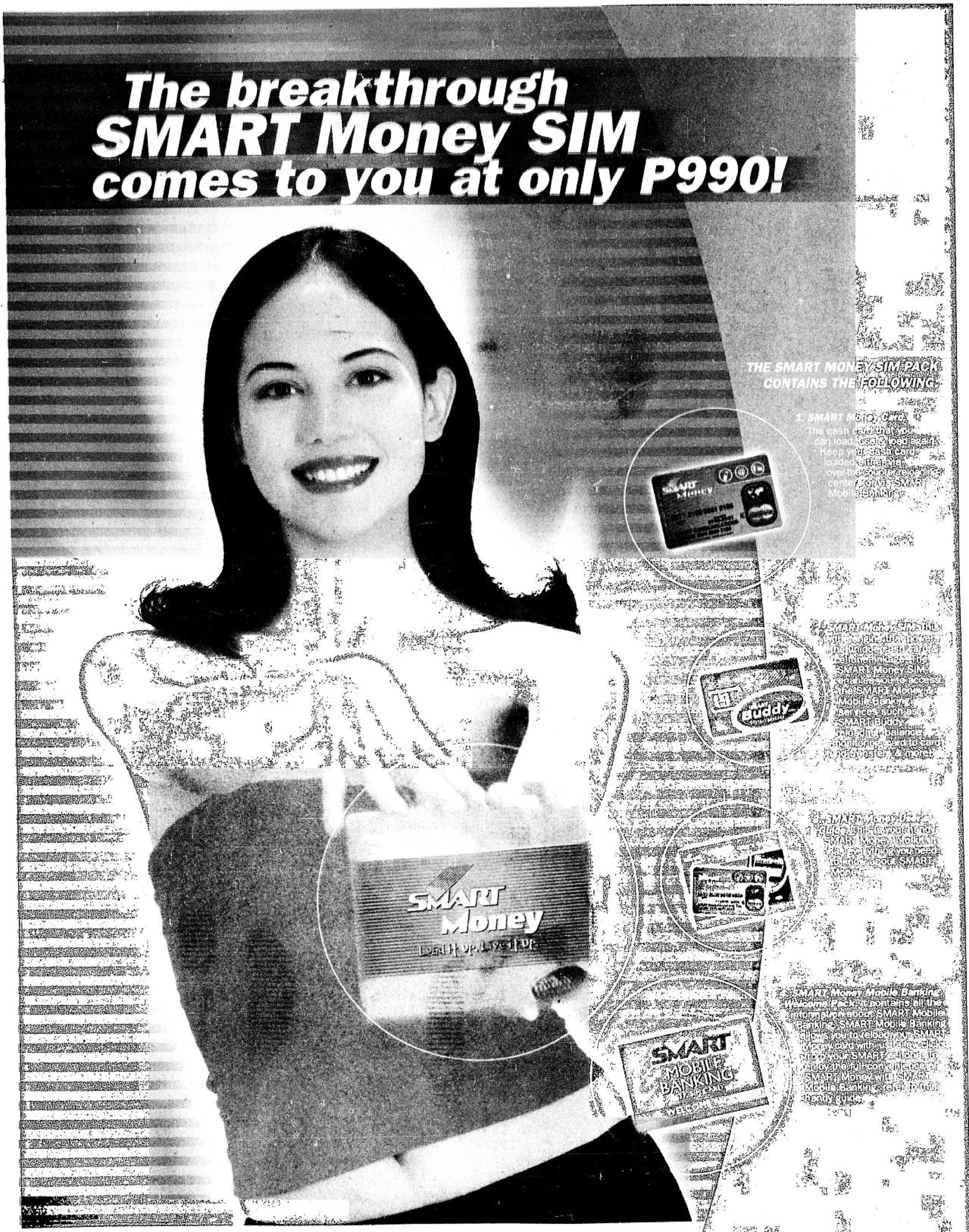

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo slept here

(Story on G2)

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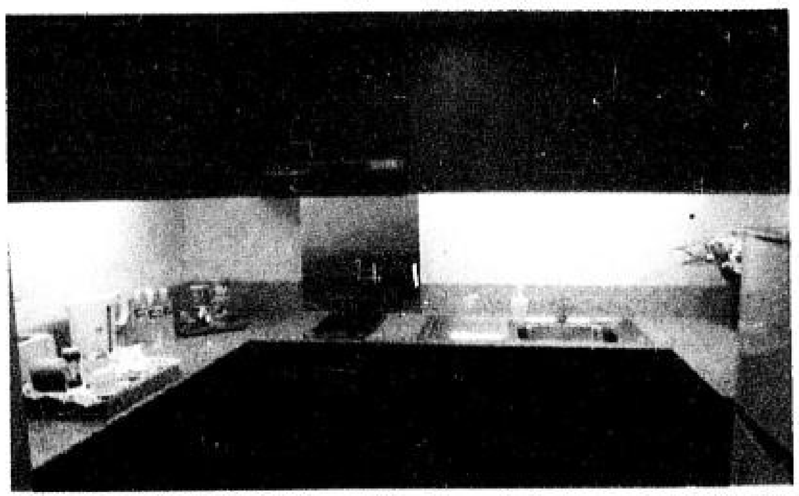
Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. 0051, Series of 2001

IT'S empty now but more than 25 people were huddled with then Vice President Arroyo in this boardroom meant for 12 people.

NO HIGH CHAIR HERE. Suite 2307's living room with a view of the Ortigas Center



WHAT'S COOKING? GMA's staff hardly made their presence felt in the kitchen.

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo slept here

By Alex Y. Vergara
Photos By Jess Yuson

While people power ruled Edsa, the transition of power was being decided at Linden Suites

WHILE then President Joseph Estrada's vast powers were slipping from his hands as he and his family were holed up in Malacañang, heir apparent Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo was hastily consolidating hers in an obscure hotel near the Edsa Shrine.

From a discreet hotel that catered mostly to corporate clients several weeks ago, the year-old Linden Suites suddenly found itself in the limelight as Macapagal and her associates turned it into their de facto headquarters three days into Edsa 2.

The hotel on San Miguel Avenue in Pasig has earned a place in history as the first to host the future President and her family. GMA was first seen at Linden during a meeting with fellow oppositionists Thursday afternoon, Jan. 18. For some reason, she and her party decided to book rooms until Saturday afternoon.

The diminutive opposition leader, hotel personnel insist, didn't demand anything special, not even a high chair. She stayed, although barely, in suite 2307, a one-bedroom affair with its own receiving area and kitchen on the 23rd floor. Close friends and staffers were booked in two other suites on the same floor.

Two function rooms adjacent to the boardroom on the fourth floor, where GMA and her supporters held marathon meetings, were hastily turned into a media center. At one time, more than 25 persons were packed with Ms Macapagal in the boardroom, made cozier by bleached wood interior and leather seats, meant to accommodate 10 to 12 guests.

People behind the hotel's restaurant aptly called Monsoon were on their toes serving food and drinks into the wee hours. Although it was beyond Monsoon's closing time, the chef finally decided to prepare an all-night buffet to feed the hungry crowd. Sandwiches and coffee by the gallon were regularly sent upstairs to the boardroom.

THE "LITTLE One" rushes to the Linden Suites to change into a dress before being sworn in.

"We barely had five minutes to prepare for her arrival," said Linden Suites GM Justin Phillips, who saw the vice president's motorcade arrive through his office window without much fanfare. "It's a good thing we still had several rooms to spare."

Expatriate haven

Linden Suites has 30 rooms and almost a hundred suites classified into one-bedroom, two-bedroom and the penthouse. Most of its guests are long-staying expatriates, a fact that probably appealed to GMA's people.

"We're not the only hotel near the shrine," Phillips admitted. "But compared to other hotels, she could move more freely here without being recognized."

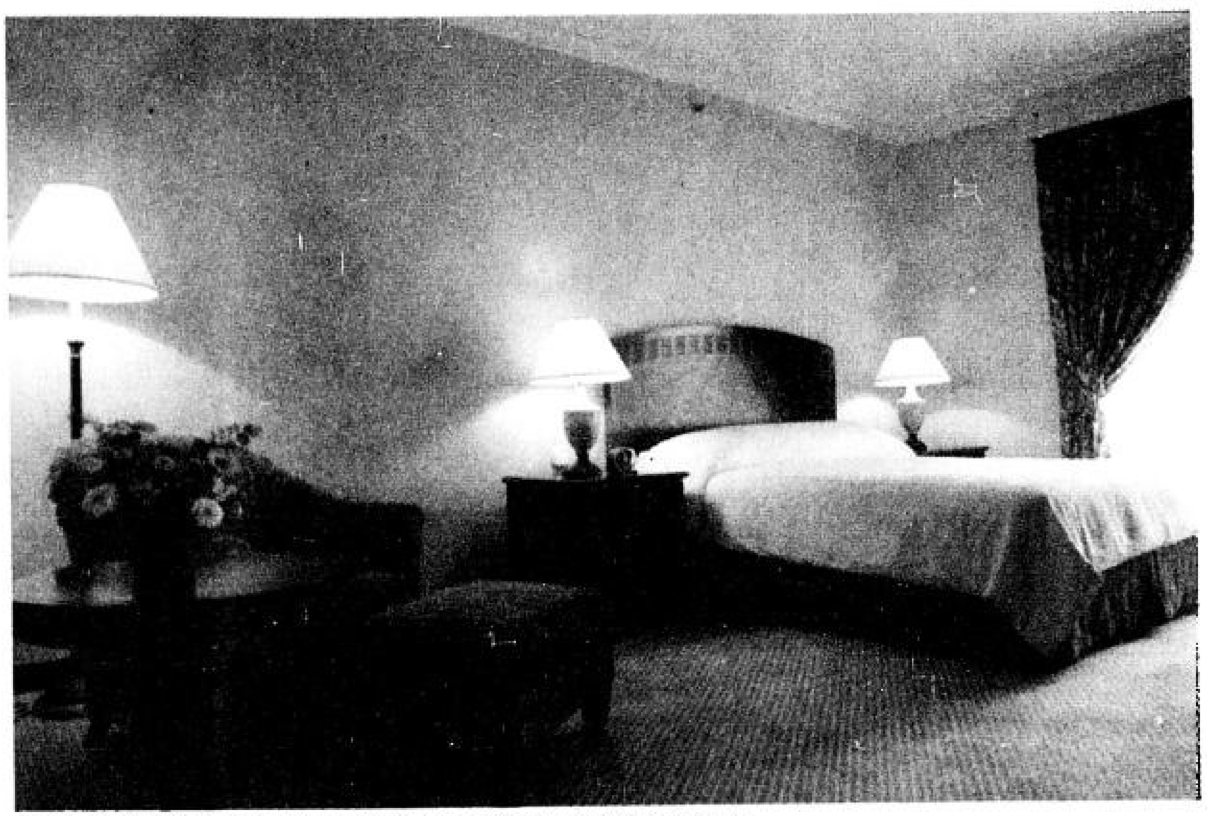
Well, that was before Ms Macapagal talked with CNN and landed on the covers of such leading newsmagazines as Newsweek, Asiaweek and Time. Local and foreign media quickly beat a path to Linden Suites soon after they got wind of GMA's whereabouts. Of course, *trapos* with their personal agendas were also seen entering and leaving the hotel's compact but high-ceilinged lobby.

Foreign guests, however, didn't seem to mind all the racket downstairs. Aside from feeling a seeming absence of any clear and present danger from developments unfolding barely a stone's throw away, guests could opt to stay inside their well-appointed suites without being disturbed. The use of key cards limits the movement of guests—and persistent intruders—within their respective floors and public areas.

The hotel also has two elevators, one leading to the suites, the other to function rooms and the business center. Several hotels in Metro Manila have also begun introducing a key card system, but perhaps not as fine-tuned as Linden's—guests in other hotels can still access the other floors.

"With such a festive atmosphere [Edsa 2]," said Phillips, an Australian from Melbourne, "the fear element was certainly removed."

He also credits members of the hotel's security who did a fine job coordinating with GMA's people. Security was understandably tight at the hotel's entrance and lobby, but the presence of security personnel was barely felt along the corridors leading to the suites.



SLEEPLESS AT EDSA. GMA retired here after an all-night meeting.

Phillips also denies earlier reports saying former PNP Director General Panfilo Lacson was physically assaulted by his rivals in the hotel. Lacson came to see GMA that Friday to personally tender his resignation.

Awed

And what can Phillips say about the country's brand of democracy? He was awed by it. Edsa 2 was his first close encounter with people power after a two-year stint in stable New Zealand. But this isn't his first posting in a volatile country experiencing sudden upheavals (*See related story*).

"Ever since I came here, there's always a new development every time I read the newspapers," he said. "It's amazing how Filipinos were finally able to come up with a swift and peaceful solution to a political crisis."

He also cites Filipinos, best exemplified by the hotel's staff, for their diligence and responsiveness. Ms Macapagal, though, hardly had the chance to savor Linden's brand of hospitality since she was holed up most of the time in the boardroom. After one of those marathon meetings, which lasted into the wee hours Saturday, GMA retired to her room early in the morning for a much-needed rest.

Phillips, however, doubts if she was able to sleep soundly at all. GMA was up and about a few hours later when she and her party trooped to the Edsa Shrine where Chief Justice Hilario Davide swore her in Saturday, Jan. 20, as the country's 14th president a few minutes past noon.

Despite the uncertainty, a composed GMA, buoyed perhaps by an outpouring of support for her, still managed to pump hands, wave and smile back at the huge crowd milling in the lobby. While members of the hotel's staff were sporting bags and dark circles under their eyes, she hardly looked sleepless from the previous night's long, drawn-out affair.

"I'm amazed at her energy level," Phillips gushed. "She also seemed to be a very gracious person."

Ms Macapagal still found time to thank the young GM before she stepped into her waiting car. And just when Phillips thought he had seen the last of her and her party that Saturday, they came back. They finally checked out of the hotel at half past 3, only to converge there again the next day for an afternoon meeting.

Like Malacañang Palace, there must be something about the Linden Suites that keeps presidents, deposed or otherwise, wanting to come back.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

Character outshines charisma

By Grace Shangkuan Koo, Ph.D.

Joseph Estrada had charisma but not character. By ousting him, the people chose the latter over the former

TWELVE hours after Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo took her oath as the 14th President of the Philippines, George W. Bush did the same as the 43rd President of the United States. A CNN commentator remarked it was character that propelled Bush to the American presidency. We can say it was also character, or rather, the lack of it, which forced Joseph Estrada out.

Charisma

The former Philippine President was a charismatic crowd-drawer. His "*artista*" antics and spontaneous one-line sound bites created an image of buddy casualness and familiarity. He moved among those who were desperately looking for a defender. A personable figure, he looked into the eyes of individuals among his admiring crowd and listened to their stories. He repeatedly showed himself eating with the poor and portrayed himself as one who enjoyed the simplest, barest things in life. He depicted himself as one with the "*masa*," whom he constantly portrayed as victims of the elite and the educated. He was immensely popular and possessed charisma.

Charisma used in the Bible means "gift" or "favor." The English word "charisma" became popular when John F. Kennedy was elected US President in 1960. Its frequent application to Kennedy by journalists popularized the term in the mass media. Since then, the term has been used almost synonymously with "appeal" or "magnetism." Political leaders, celebrities, including athletic stars, movie stars, evangelists, generals, are described as having "charisma." Unfortunately, popularization of the word has devalued its meaning.

Character

What can we say about Estrada's character? When Cardinal Jaime Sin advised Estrada to resign, he spoke of the President's loss of moral ascendancy. On this point, I believe only a very few, in their hearts, would disagree.

The word "character" originates from Latin, which means "an instrument for marking." Greek and French derivations mean "to make sharp" or "to engrave." Character is not a passing fancy; it is not a casual preference, a personal taste. It is the distinguishing mark of a person—the sum of qualities about him. It also means moral strength, the principles and motives that control his life.

A gambler-adulterer-drinker is not exactly a good example—for his own children or for his friends, least of all for his constituents. The company he keeps also speaks of his character. The warning from Proverbs (13:20), "He who walks with the wise grows wise; a companion of fools suffers harm," comes a bit too late for him. With such lifestyle and behavior, it was easy for people to connect the allegations and consequently the evidence of bribery, money laundering, graft and corruption. To illustrate, it would have been more difficult and almost impossible to believe such charges if they were said of former President Corazon Aquino.

Unlike charisma (in the sense of "being charming"), character cannot happen overnight. It is a like the foundation of a house. Character cannot be built except by a steady, long, continuing process. When people hire image consultants, the clients are looking for a quick fix, a temporary prop for a gullible audience. Be it a change of wardrobe, or other packaging and marketing ploy, image remaking seeks to delude or sway a crowd. Posturing without substantiation and deeds is charisma without character.

Character is not "character," the role of an actor in a movie. While the actor can go in and out of a movie character, a person will find it hard to hide his true colors for long. Freud said it well, "You cannot dream yourself into a character; you must hammer and forge yourself into one." A noble character is the sum of a man's ordinary days well used. In the case of our 13th president in his last days in office, the promise of improvement in work habits and the sudden emergence of a good family man were as cosmetic as an actor's makeup.

Righteous indignation

People Power 2 was a revolution of hearts—a revolt against tolerating evil for too long. The most wonderful thing about this mass protest and its aftermath is the message: That we as a people care about morals. In God's mercy and grace, we are not permanently desensitized to evil, and are capable of moral enlightenment. When the fierce wrestling between good and evil—right and wrong, decency and indecency—unfolded right before our very eyes, our individual sense of righteous indignation gave rise to a collective conscience that liberated us from the hopeless gloom of Tuesday night (Jan. 16) and delivered us to the noonday light of Saturday (Jan. 20).

It is a time to rejoice. Rejoice for the return of righteousness. Rejoice for the triumph of goodness. As I write these words, I could hear in my mind the music of Mendelssohn in his Oratorio "Elijah" when the choir and brass sounds the glorious, swelling finale: "Then, then shall your light break forth as the light of morning breaketh!" "Then your righteousness will go before you," continues the passage in Isaiah 58:8. Let righteousness lead us the way. This righteousness comes not from a single person or office but from a community of believers and doers of righteousness.

And to those who have not learned the lesson on character, these words from T.B. Macaulay are good reminders: "The measure of a man's real character is what he would do if he knew he would never be found out." To which Eleanor Doan added, "How a man plays the game shows something of his character. How he loses shows all of it."

E-mail the author at grace@usa.net or visit http://www.sunnybrook.net for previous articles

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This Phillips feels at home

JUSTIN Phillips is no stranger to trouble. In fact, in less than a decade, the 34-year-old Australian has witnessed three Asian leaders fall from power.

"Either it's [trouble] following me or I'm following it," the 15-year hotel industry veteran quipped.

While on a holiday in Thailand sometime in 1991, Phillips wondered why everybody seemed to be glued to their TV sets while soldiers patrolled the streets of Bangkok. He learned the next day, to his surprise, the military had just ousted the Thai prime minister in a bloodless coup.

"That was a peaceful one," he said.

Phillips' next encounter with instability wasn't so benign, however. He was in Indonesia in 1998, helping manage a new hotel, when Suharto was forced to resign after a series of explosions and bloody street riots that rocked Jakarta. The former strongman had also lost the military's support.

"I felt a lot safer here in the Philippines," he said. "Edsa had a festive atmosphere based on images I saw on TV. The protest in Indonesia was far more violent."

Still, Phillips deemed it wise not to add to his parents' worries by calling them back home while Edsa 2 was in progress. He phoned them on Sunday, Jan. 21, to tell them he survived the experience tired but in one piece. Much as he and his staff wanted to go to the Edsa Shrine, they were all busy attending to then Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and her supporters.

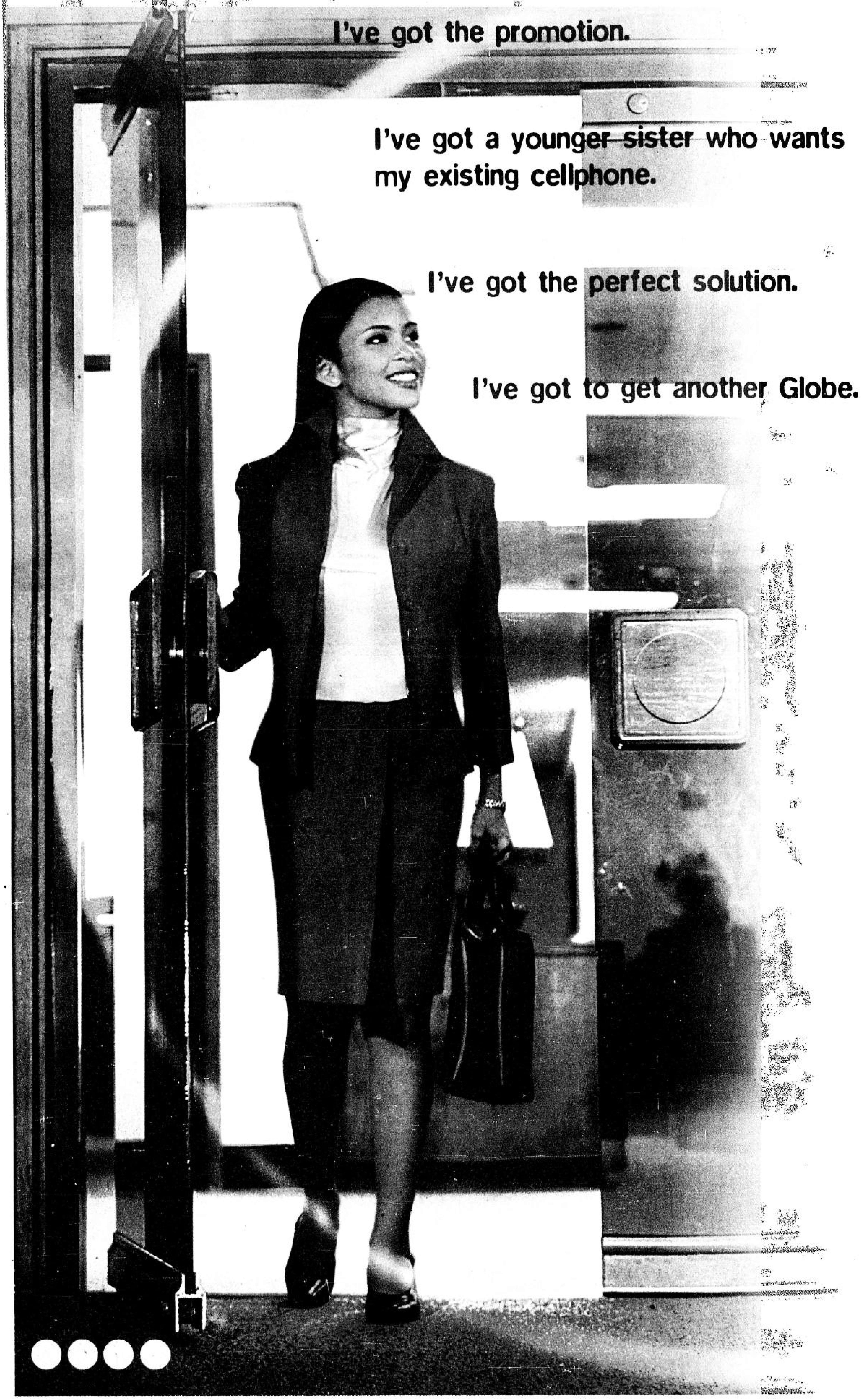
His dad, a doctor, took the news calmly, but not his mom, a nurse. She was so worried that her son would become a potential target because of Linden Suites' famous guest. It took some time before Phillips was able to assure her that Edsa 2 was quick, peaceful and effective.

LINDEN Suites GM Justin Phillips

"But I did call my brother and his wife in Singapore to update them about developments," he said.

Phillips knows his brother, Guy, also a hotelier, would understand and relate to developments in the Philippines better. After all, he's married to a Filipina named Chinen whom he met while working in Hong Kong. As for Phillips, the tall GM is happily unattached. When friends learned about his new assignment late last year, they lost no time kidding him about it.

"They say nobody has seen a single expat come here without getting married [to a local]," he said with a big smile. "I don't know. We'll see." *Alex Y. Vergara*


I've got the promotion.
I've got a younger sister who wants my existing cellphone.
I've got the perfect solution.
I've got to get another Globe.

Turning garbage into gardens

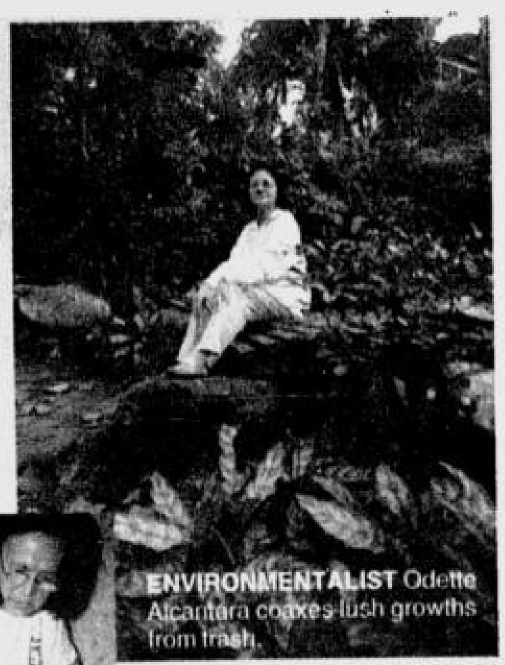
THESE days, it's *basura* on our minds and on our sidewalks. It's everywhere. Nowhere to dump the rotting stuff, the government tells us. As if our eyes and noses don't still get the point, there are media pictures of *basura* barges headed for aborted dumping trips to places like pristine Semirara, then more pictures of Payatas and San Mateo.

Yes, our *basura* is having trouble disappearing, but the truth is we are equipped to make our *basura* disappear. This is where Odette Alcantara's *basura* gardens come in.

Alcantara and her Mother Earth group have literally made gardens bloom out of compost from organic household trash. Her own backyard, where she grows her flowers, vegetables and fruits, and the Blue Ridge (Quezon City) Village Park, are living examples. If those examples are not enough, within the last seven years, Blue Ridge grew a village rainforest of now mature trees rising on a hillside above its park that grows on a bed of compost from the organic *basura* of the village. A recycling center, no more than a small *bodega*, is where residents bring their recyclable material for sale to the eco-aides who deliver these to junk shops.

The women of Mother Earth have the mission of making *basura* disappear. Their strategy is simple: Don't slop everything into a trash bag, sort out your trash and recycle everything.

Begin with the organic stuff. These are the biodegradables: vegetable and fruit peels, trimmings from fish, meat and fowl, leftover food, paper plates and napkins and other kitchen refuse. There also are garden biodegradables such as fallen leaves and branches. There are household biodegradables as well: disposable diapers (peel off the plastic lining first), used tissue and others. Segregate all biodegradables in a separate trash container.



ENVIRONMENTALIST Odette Alcantara coaxes lush growths from trash.

JOAN BONDOC

FRUIT peelings are mixed with soil.

IN ALCANTARA'S place, each household member has compost pots at hand for food wastes after meal. PHOTOS: ROGER MARGALLO

Dig a hole in your garden and bury the biodegradables, cover with earth. If you have no garden, put the biodegradables in a flowerpot and cover with earth. In about two to three weeks, the biodegradables will have composted. The compost can be used as garden fertilizer and the excess can either be given away or sold. The idea is biblically simple: What comes from the earth returns to the earth.

Take a look at Blue Ridge in Quezon City. Its streets are lined with flowering plants and shaded by lofty trees, all growing out of the compost of homeowners. But the most outstanding thing about the streets of Blue Ridge is that not a single garbage can is in sight. Where else in Manila or in this country can you find that?

Augusto F. Villalon

CARDBOARD or corrugated board carton sells for P1 a kilo in junk shops.

VARIOUS plastic bottles are piled separately in the Blue Ridge recycling center. PHOTOS: ROGER MARGALLO

Compost and recycle . . .

(From page G8)

million households in Metro Manila, less than 300,000 segregate their wastes. Clearly, people need to be educated more on the nature of garbage and the management of wastes.

Near the doorway of the Linis-Ganda office at 123 N. Domingo St., Quezon City, are odds and ends mounted on the wall or displayed on shelves, to guide people on which objects to segregate from wastes.

There are the recyclables itemized as: newspaper, white bond paper (pure), brown paper, computer printout, assorted paper, craftboard, white paper with print, folder, rejects; aluminum cans, bottles, plastic, broken bottles, scrap iron, metal, cans, light aluminum, heavy aluminum, car tires, stainless steel, cullets, inkjet, zinc, lead *(tingga)*, brass *(tansong dilaw)*, copper *(tansong pula)*.

Then there are the nonsaleable items: foil, styrofoam, unshredded rubber slippers.

Bits and pieces

Of Metro Manila's 1,500 junk shops, almost 600 have become members of the Metro Manila Federation of Environment Multi-Purpose Cooperatives. There are now 17 such coops in the metropolis. These employ over 1,000 eco-aides, whom the Linis-Ganda program provides with green push carts, green bicycles with side cars, green-and-yellow uniforms, ID cards.

Through the coops, the Landbank and the Department of Trade and Industry give the junk-shop operators low-interest, collateral-free loans to provide eco-aides with seed money for buying junk from households.

The scrap materials are brought to the junk shops, which in turn sell them to the country's 18 paper mills, five glass factories, five metal plants, and 300 plastic manufacturers. From junk, the eco-aide stands to get a profit of 10-15 percent and the junk-shop operator 15-20 percent.

Igmedio Tambong put up his junk shop (or recycling center) at 109 A. Luna St., San Juan, in1984. The place appears to be a jumble of bits and pieces. When one looks closer, one sees the scrap materials have been segregated accordingly: a pile of cardboard sheets in one corner, a mound of aluminum cans in another, bottles in rows, plastics in cartons, assorted paper packed in kraft, a heap of metal pieces—all ready for delivery to the factories.

Toward evening, the place is still bustling with activity, as more men come with their junk. Tambong employs about 20 eco-aides. He says his eco-aide earns an average of P5,000-P6,000 a month.

In rich neighborhoods, in prosperous areas such as commercial centers and plush subdivisions, an eco-aide may earn over P20,000 a month.

Alcantara has one misgiving, though. "Half of the junk dealers do not compost," she says. "They have to be educated. Money is not a good motivation, because they take only what can be sold and the rest they litter."

LINIS-GANDA executive director Leonarda Camacho and Federation of Environment Cooperatives president Bong Teves show how wastes are segregated.

The first disciple of Jesus

COMPILED BY TELLY ALBERT ZULUETA

MARIA Valtorta, to whom Our Lord has granted the privilege of not only seeing and hearing visions but was actually present on the scene writes:

"I see Jesus walking along the green strip of vegetation that borders the Jordan. He has gone back to the same place where He was baptized, commonly used to cross to the other bank toward Perea. But the place, which was so crowded before, is now deserted. There are only a few travelers, going on foot, or riding donkeys or horses.

"Jesus does not seem aware of them. He proceeds along his way, northward, absorbed in His thoughts. When He reaches the ford, He meets a group of men who are discussing animatedly. Among these I see John and James. John is the first to see Jesus and he points Him out to his brother and companions.

"They talk a little among themselves, and then John starts walking quickly to reach Jesus. James follows him, walking a little slower. The others do not show any interest. When John is near Jesus he shouts: "Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world!

"Jesus turns around and looks at him. Jesus with his scrutinizing look, John with his pure eyes smiling in his beautiful, youthful face that looks like the face of a girl. He is about 20 years old, and on his rosy cheeks there is only a sign of a blond down, like a golden veil.

"Whom are you looking for?" asks Jesus.

"For You, Master!"

"What do you want from Me?"

"I want You to tell us words of eternal life and to comfort us."

"But who are you?"

"I am John of Zebedee, and this is James, my brother. We are from Galilee and we are fishermen. But we are also disciples of John. He spoke words of life to us and we listened to him because we want to follow God, and deserve His forgiveness, doing penance and preparing our hearts for the coming of the Messiah."

Our Lord explains to Maria after this vision: "Only one recognized Me from the crowd. He whose soul, mind and flesh, were pure and free from all lewdness. I insist on the value of purity. Chastity is always the source of clear ideas.

"The world sneers at pure people. Those who are guilty of lewdness strike them. John the Baptist is the victim of the lust of an obscene couple. But if there is still some light in the world, this is due to the pure of this world."

"I said: 'Happy are the pure in heart, they shall see God.' John of Zebedee is a pure soul. He is the Pure One among My disciples. He calls Me and asks Me to give him peace. But he already has peace in his heart because of his purity, and I loved him because of his purity, to whom I entrusted My teachings, My secrets and the most dear Creature I had—my mother.

"He was My first disciple, who loved Me from the very instant he saw Me. His soul had melted with Mine from the day he saw Me passing near the Jordan and he saw the Baptist pointing to Me. Even if he had not found Me right away, he would have looked for Me until he found Me, because who is pure, is humble and anxious to be taught in the science of God, and like the water that flows to the sea, he goes towards those he knows to be masters in the celestial doctrine."

This excerpt is from "First Year of the Public Life of Jesus" which can be ordered by writing to Legion of Little Souls, Royal Pines, Tagaytay City. Or call 809-2409/5546 or Little Angels Inc. at 823-8105

Seminar on issues in family ventures set

CONFLICT Resolution Consultants, a conflict management consultancy firm, will sponsor a seminar on "Issues and Problems in the Family Business" on March 2, 1-6 p.m., at the Dusit Hotel Nikko, Ayala Center, Makati City. The seminar is designed to equip the public with an understanding of the various issues and problems confronting the family business.

The topics to be discussed include: Advantages and Goals of the Family Business; Division of Labor; Role Carryover; Decision-Making; Power Battles; Role Confusion; Supervision, Individuation and Triangulation; Dealing with Spouses, In-Laws and Non-family Employees; Conflict in the Family Business; Establishment of a Family Council; and Succession, among others.

A special feature of the seminar is an evaluation of the family business of the participants to identify problem areas.

Visit the Conflict Resolution Consultants, 205 State Condominium IV, Ortigas Avenue, Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila, or call 721-4003/4305, 671-4780/4835 or fax 721-5269.

A lesson for teachers

MUSTARD SEED

Joseph Galdon, S.J.

THIS is for teachers in classrooms and for parents who are teachers of their children. Psychologists say that our fundamental teachers are our parents and our grandparents. Teachers are also good bosses who are teaching in the office, and priests and sisters who are teaching in the Church and in the Convent.

Patron saint of educators

The best lesson comes from the patron saint of teachers. That is St. John Baptist De La Salle. He was born in France on April 30, 1651, and ordained as a priest in 1678 when he was 27 years old. In 1679, he opened two free schools in France and also trained the teachers of schools for the poor. That is because of his early year as a priest he perceived the need for free schools for poor boys and girls in which they would be given a basic education and would also be taught religion and would be trained to be good Christians (not necessarily Catholics). That lesson of teaching the poor is very good for us teachers. That is certainly what Jesus would want.

In 1684, John Baptist De La Salle formed a religious congregation called Brothers of the Christian Schools. John Baptist was a very good innovator in teaching. He emphasized the individual instructions as well as the class instructions of the teachers. He also emphasized the need for a thorough knowledge of the local culture by the teachers. He also made religious instruction the center of all teaching. He also established the first normal school for the training of teachers. He died on April 7, 1719 at the age of 68. He was canonized as a saint by Pope Leo XIII in 1900 and Pope Pius XII named him the Patron of Teachers in 1950. St. John Baptist De La Salle is certainly a good patron of teachers, so let us pray to him that he will help us become good teachers, too.

We must be good mentors

We certainly must be good teachers whether we are teaching in the classrooms, in our family, in the office, or in the Church or Convent, or in the house of other people. That means our teaching must be intellectual, but also spiritual, in the classrooms or in our lives with others. We must also help others to be good teachers and we must emphasize the teaching of those who are poor or in need of good teachers.

We must be disciples of Jesus. The Apostles were very good disciples and teachers of Jesus, and we ought to be good disciples and teachers, too. Jesus says if you want to be my disciples and teachers, you must deny yourself. That means you must be very unselfish. You must also follow me, Jesus says. That means you must follow my teaching in your life and in your teaching to others.

Let us pray

So let us pray to St. John the Baptist De La Salle and to Jesus that we will be good teachers. "Here I am, Lord. It is I, Lord. As a teacher I have heard You calling me to be a good teacher. I will go, Lord, if You lead me as a teacher. In my teaching I will hold Your people in my life in my love, especially those who are poor. I will go, Lord, where you need me. I will hold Your students in my mind, in my heart and in my words."

She suppresses her feelings for a friend whom she now avoids

LOVE NOTES

Joe D' Mango

DEAR Joe,

I'm typically perceived as a strong individual, easy to get along with, not that stunningly beautiful, but I do have my share of suitors. It's just that I never got interested in them, not after my last breakup three years ago.

I transferred almost two years ago to the firm I'm connected with right now. Being the friendly person that I am, I easily got close to my peers. Among them, it was Rico who seemed to appreciate me and became my constant companion. It started with Rico telling me all about his likes, his life, his fiancée. He admitted it was only me whom he was able to confide with, aside from Janine, his fiancée. Janine was working in another country and was due to return in Manila mid-next year for their wedding.

I knew he just needed a listening ear. Although he admitted he didn't mention me to Janine even once, I encouraged him to tell her about me casually because I knew there was really nothing to hide. One early morning, he called me up to tell me that he and Janine had a misunderstanding because of me. He told Janine about me, and that there was a possibility he was already falling for me. Naturally, she got jealous and mad. At that time I didn't know how to feel, but more than anything I pitied myself. I didn't have the slightest intention of doing them harm.

After that incident, I suggested to Rico we should not spend too much time together. Things went back to normal, but still he would stay with me whenever time permits, but I would remind him of Janine. He even went to ask me if he was falling for me, and I casually told him he just missed Janine. After all, they spent almost half of their lives together.

To make things easier for us, I kept myself busy. I'd go out with other friends and stop rendering overtime work (to the detriment of my career). And I am already entertaining suitors because I'm capable of loving again.

I've read somewhere that we shouldn't waste time to show someone we love them. In my case, I have to defy such belief. I know there are a lot of other people who are in the same predicament I'm in right now. It's hard but we have to be strong.

There are times I just want to resign from work. I don't know how long I can hold on but still I'm hoping that we'll remain friends.

Please pray for me and for people like me.

MIA

Sometimes we wonder why just can't we fall in love and be happy. Why does there always have to be a string of constraint and confusion attached to it? Why can't we just love someone and not be guilty about feeling that way?

Mia , it's a cold hard fact that not all the people we choose to love may be able to return the same feelings. They may either be committed to someone else or may not be interested in us at all.

But Rico must have liked you a lot for he would not have had the courage to tell his girlfriend about his feelings for you. But you knew you never wanted to be the cause of conflict so you backed off to a safe distance. I think he understood your message and somehow realized he can never be more than a friend to you.

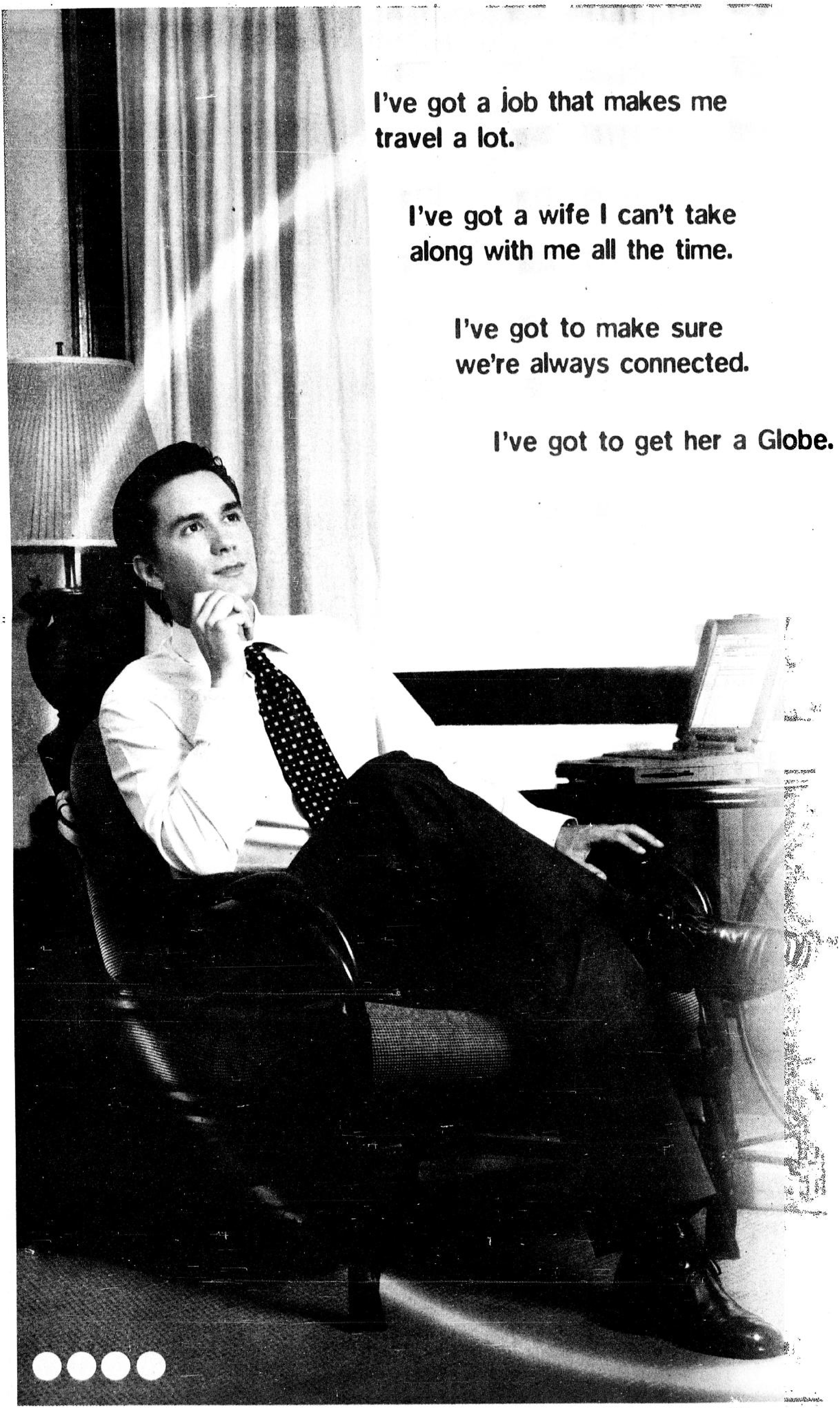
But, he thought wrongly. Now you are the one falling and hoping against hope that you may find love in him again.

Mia, your work doesn't have to suffer just because you have fallen in love with your officemate. You cannot turn your back from what your heart cries out for. Somehow, you would have to get your act together and deal with this sweeping emotion. How long do you think can you hide your affection that grows as each day passes? How long can you make excuses to avoid him?

Mia, sometimes the easiest way to get the weight off our chest is to honestly let the other person know how we feel. Tell Rico you are avoiding him because you are afraid of falling in love too deep that you may never be able to get out of it. Let him know you just wanted to get it off your chest and you are not in any way expecting anything from him. At least you would not have to worry about him finding out from someone else. After this, close this book and go on with your life.

He may remain as your friend or you may lose him forever. But, he may also return your feelings in a way that you would never expect. Then, this would have to be a new chapter. Mia, live by the day and deal with your emotions as they come. Be honest with yourself and true to what you feel. Let us always remember that love never grows when it is secretly kept locked in our hearts. Love will only find fulfillment when it finds its way out and dwells in the heart of that person destined to keep it.

E-mail the author at lovenotes@amanet.net or send letters c/o dwTM Unit 907, Paragon Plaza, Edsa, Mandaluyong City



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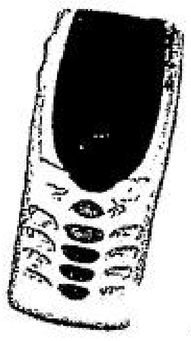

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Compost and recycle–don't collect and dump

If you don't want 'basura,' stop mixing your wastes. Segregate everything

BY CONSTANTINO C. TEJERO

A STUDY commissioned by the environmental group Greenpeace estimates that Metro Manila can recycle and compost at least 30 percent of its projected waste in 2005, and 60 percent by 2010, "if a genuine waste-reduction program is used."

New Metro Manila Development Authority chair Benjamin Abalos revealed that, meantime, seven dumpsites in Metro Manila and environs would have to provide a short-term solution to the garbage problem.

"The present system is: Collect and dump, collect and dump, collect and dump," says writer and environmentalist Odette Alcantara. "It does not work, it never worked, it will never work—why do you insist on a system that does not work? It only gave birth to Smokey Mountain [open dumpsite in Manila], Carmona [landfill in Cavite], San Mateo [landfill in Rizal] and Payatas [open dumpsite in Quezon City]. If Semirara [open pit in Antique] wasn't aborted, it would have been its fifth child. Common sense dictates that it shouldn't be perpetuated but supplanted with something that works."

Alcantara says every Filipino should take it upon himself or herself to deal with trash as his or her own problem. And if every citizen would just practice the three Rs for an environment-friendly society—Reduce, Reuse, Recycle—then the MMDA people's job would become redundant.

"Wastes are things we throw away," adds Alcantara. "They're not necessarily garbage. Garbage is mixed wastes. If you mix the wet and the dry stuff, you complicate things. *Basura* is *mabaho, marumi, basa.* If you don't want *basura*, stop mixing your wastes. Segregate everything."

Alcantara and her fellow environmentalists can see clearly that there are only two simple ways to permanently solve the garbage problem of Metro Manila: to compost and to recycle. City and town officials refuse to see that.

Solution, not option

"This is the solution, not the alternative," says Leonarda Camacho, another environmentalist. "I've been doing this for 17 years, so they can't tell me I don't have the experience."

Camacho says she has been doing research on garbage for 25 years. A reporter for the Philippines Herald in her youth, and later president of the National Federation of Women's Clubs of the Philippines, she organized Metro Manila junk shops, formed environment cooperatives and initiated the Linis-Ganda program in 1983.

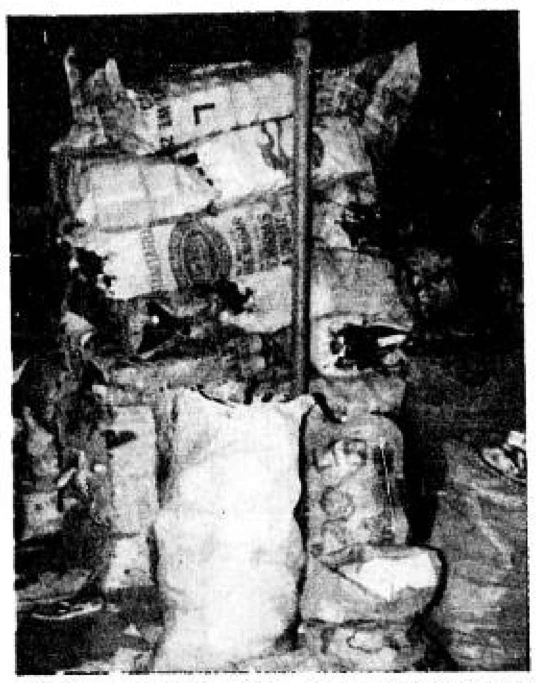
Teaching the gospel of composting and recycling, the program is a resource-recovery system involving the separation of household wastes and the collection of recyclables by a network of eco-aides. For this, Camacho was chosen by the Australian Broadcasting Corp. as one of the global heroes of 1996, and the project was cited by the United Nations Habitat II Summit in Istanbul as the best practice in the world that year.

Linis-Ganda offers the following solution to the garbage problem:

- Mandate the segregation of wastes in the kitchen in three containers for the following: food and animal wastes; returnables to factories (paper, plastics, bottles, cans, scrap metals); residuals (hazardous household wastes such as used sanitary napkins and diapers, cotton buds, wound dressings and bandages, personal items of sick people, toy and flashlight batteries, paint and thinner cans, pentel and ballpoint pens, shoes and slippers, upholstery, mats, unrecyclable packaging such as tetrapack, polystyrene and doy pack).
- The government should collect the organic materials and convert them into compost or encourage people with space in their backyards to do their own composting.
- Returnables should be collected in green-colored trucks and sold to factories. Or sold to junk shops to reduce the need for trucks to haul them off.
- Through the hydromex method, residuals should be converted into usable products such as hollow blocks and paint.
- Rubber tires (about 300,000 unusable ones annually) can be shredded or palletized and mixed with asphalt.
- Garden wastes and wood debris from construction sites can be converted into charcoal.
- Markets and slaughterhouses should be provided with digester tanks that convert food and animal wastes into gas (methane) and compost (soil conditioner).
- Hospital wastes should be collected through a systematic method. The hydromex machine is also suitable for hospital wastes.

Camacho bewails the fact that, of the 1.6-

COMPOST/ p.G4



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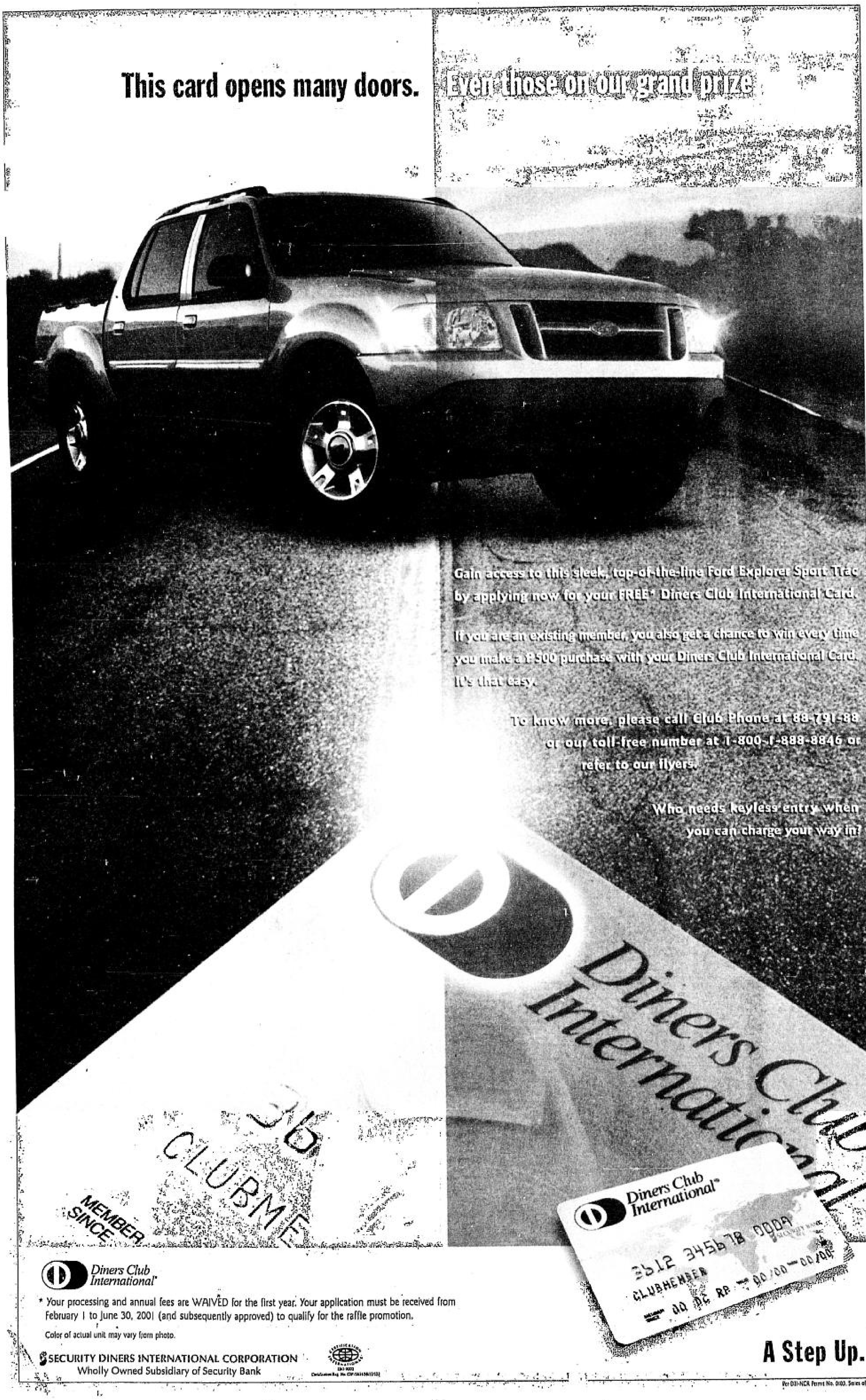

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XiC Global
Building eBusiness Relationships

*Longing to release your **CREATIVITY**? **DARE** to be **DIFFERENT**? Want to **WORK** and have **FUN** at the same time?*
*Then, **MAKE THAT MOVE!!!***

XiC Global is a Customer Relationship Management (CRM) solution provider supporting business to business (B2B) e-commerce.
*We are inviting **dynamic and challenge-driven professionals** to join our team!*

CONTENT MANAGER *(Code: MB-CM)*
Primary Job Objective:
Responsible for providing supervision to the team that develops and modifies user manual and related reference material, researches and sources content and weblinks to specifications set.
Key Requirements:
- Graduate of AB English, Library Science, Mass Communication and related field.
- 3-5 years working experience involving research, analysis, information work and written or visual communications.
- Excellent computer skills.
- Exceptional analytical and research skills online and offline.
- Excellent English communication skills
- Very strong quality focus and a keen eye for detail.

KNOWLEDGE ADMINISTRATOR/ RESEARCHER *(Code: MB- RES)*
Primary Job Objective:
Responsible for research and documentation and producing technical manuals.
Key Requirements:
- Graduate of AB English, Library Science, Mass Communication and related field.
- Excellent oral and written communication.
- Proficient in computer applications.
- Analytical and organized.

ACCOUNTANT *(Code: MB-ACT)*
Primary Job Objective:
Responsible for the preparation of management reports and feasibility studies.
Key Requirements:
- Certified Public Accountant preferred.
- 3-5 years experience in general accounting work.

ACCOUNT MANAGER *(Code: MB-AO)*
Primary Job Objective:
Responsible for developing and maintaining client relationship. Plays a pivotal role in the launch, ongoing development and management of outsourced projects.
Key Requirements:
- Business-related degree holder.
- 5 years experience in client project and account management in a service environment.

CALL CENTER AGENTS *(Code: MB-CCA)*
Primary Job Objective:
Responsible for directly interfacing with our clients' customers in providing superior customer service and support via phone, e-mail and webchat.
Key Requirements:
- College graduate, with at least 1 year experience in call / telecenter service company.
- Must have excellent command of both oral and written English, interpersonal, problem solving and sales skills.
- Must be a computer literate
- Willing to adapt long hours of work experience.
- Team player and customer oriented.
- Pleasing personality and pleasant speaking voice.
- Aggressive, resourceful and creative.

ALSO NEEDED ARE: German, French, Spanish and Italian speaking candidates.

Walk-in applicants will not be entertained. Applicants are advised to send their comprehensive resume with recent photo not later than February 14, 2001 to:

(Indicate position code)
XiC Global, Inc.
5 / F BA-Lepanto Building, 8747 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City
E-mail add: jobs@xicglobal.com
The positions will be based at Eastwood City Cyberpark
Libis, Quezon City

SALES MANAGER
We require the services of a hardworking individual to handle the marketing and sales of Power Distribution Equipment to Electric Utilities, Distributors, Electric Cooperatives and other Accounts.

Qualifications:
- ➢ Electrical Engineer
- ➢ 3 years Work Experience
- ➢ Good Moral Character
- ➢ Driver's License

An attractive compensation package awaits the successful applicant.
Please submit your comprehensive resumé to:

INDUSTRIAL WORLD TRADERS
Rm. 403, Cityland 10, Tower I
Ayala Avenue corner H.V. dela Costa Streets
Makati City
Fax : 815-3325
Email : jya@mozcom.com

POSITION: **SALES MANAGER**

QUALIFICATIONS:
1. College graduate
2. Good track records in sales and marketing
3. Computer literate
4. 30 to 40 years old
5. Male
6. Good oral/written communication skills
7. Good moral character
8. Willing to be assigned anywhere in the Philippines

Bring your resumé to:

#100 Danny Floro Street
Bagong-Ilog, Pasig City
Call: Ms. Rosalie Bigcas
Tel.: 671-9935
Fax: 671-5950

Stores Specialists Inc.

IS IN IMMEDIATE NEED OF

MERCHANDISE MANAGERS (Code: R-MM)
- Male or Female, at least 27 years old
- Graduate of a 4-year business related course, preferably with an MBA or Fashion Merchandising degree
- With at least (2)-year work experience in the retail business in the same capacity
- Must have excellent oral and written communication skills
- Must be analytical, results-oriented, artistic, creative and with good fashion sense
- Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality
- Must be computer literate

Those who meet the qualifications mentioned may send their comprehensive resumé with contact number, transcript of records and a recent 2 x 2 photo to:

Personnel Department
STORES SPECIALISTS, INC.
4th Floor, Midland Buendia Building
#403 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City

MANAGERIAL

Max's RESTAURANT

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

For its continuous expansion program

The leading restaurant in the country that has kept the legendary "Sarap to the Bones" (Max's Fried Chicken) delicious Filipino tradition has career opportunities for soon to open Metro Manila and provincial Company-owned and franchised branches.

FOOD COMMITTEE COORDINATORS

(To be based in Quezon City)

- Preferably male, 25 to 30 years old;
- Licensed Nutritionist;
- With at least 1 year experience working in the commissary;
- Willing to do field work.

AREA OPERATIONS MANAGERS

- Male/Female;
- With at least 3 years of experience as a branch/store manager in a restaurant or fastfood;
- Willing to travel to different franchised branches in Metro Manila and in the provinces;
- Will be responsible for the assigned branches' sales and profitability targets; FSC;
- Computer literate (Word, Powerpoint, Excel).

MANAGEMENT TRAINEES

- Male/Female, at least 23 years old;
- Preferably graduates of BSHRM, BSBA, BSC or related courses;
- At least 1 year working experience, preferably in the same industry;
- Computer literate (Excel, Powerpoint, Word).

LOCAL STORE MARKETING COORDINATORS

- Male/Female, 23 to 35 years old;
- Graduates of Marketing Communications, Management, or related courses;
- Have worked for a quick service restaurant for at least one year, specifically in the area of local store marketing and/or promotions;
- Must be articulate, assertive, able to relate effectively with people from all levels of the organization and computer literate;
- Will be based in Baclaran but must be willing to do field work and travel within the country.

DINING SUPERVISORS

- Male/Famale, at least 25 years old;
- Preferably graduates of BSHRM, BSBA, BSC or other related courses;
- Have 2 years working experience as Asst. Dining Supervisor or Captain Waiter;
- Have good customer relation skills.

KITCHEN SUPERVISORS

- Male/Female, at least 25 years old;
- Preferably graduates of BS Food and Nutrition, HRM or other related courses;
- Have 2 years working experience; 1 year as Asst. Kitchen Supervisor;
- Have knowledge in menu planning, food costing and inventory management.

DINING TRAINORS

- College graduates, preferably of BSHRM, Tourism, PR, BSBA, Mass Communication;
- With at least 2 to 3 years of work experience in a hotel and restaurant/food industry;
- Computer literate (Excel, Powerpoint, Word);
- Will be based at Corporate Headquarters in Baclaran but must be willing to do field work and travel within the country.

BANQUET AND SALES COORDINATORS

- Male/Female, 19 to 26 years old;
- College graduates, preferably of BSHRM, Tourism, PR, BSBA, Mass Communication;
- Must have a pleasant personality and above average English communication skills.

Interested parties may apply in person, hand carry, mail or e-mail their application letters with their resumé, xerox copy of their transcript of records and I.D. photo to:

**The Human Resources Manager
Max's Group of Companies
Penthouse - Max's Baclaran Branch
Roxas Boulevard corner A. Guarra Street
Parañaque City, Metro Manila
E-mail: hrd@maxschicken.com**

Stores Specialists, Inc.

Urgently needs...

SALES CONSULTANTS

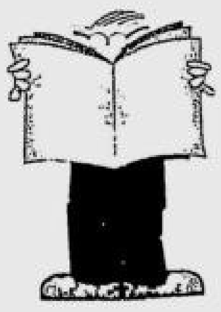
Position Code: SC001

- Female/Male, 28 years and below
- Graduate of a four year course
- Must be at least 5'2" in height with clear complexion
- Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality
- With excellent interpersonal skills
- With good communication skills (English/Tagalog)
- Computer literate

Interested applicants may send their resumé with recent 2x2 photo to:

**STORE SPECIALIST, INC.
4/F Midland Buendia Building
403 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City**

Note: Please indicate on the envelope the position code applied for.



Where you find the best.

Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
JOB MARKET
When You Find The Best.

TALKING MAIL

GLOBAL MESSAGING CARDS

EARN UNLIMITED INCOME

WHILE BRIDGING FAMILY CONNECTIONS
ACROSS THE GLOBE!

Send & receive unlimited messages to your loved ones abroad thru local calls. No IDD charges, no per minute charge, no internet facility necessary.

Be the first to enjoy this new product and be a pioneer in the business in Asia!

Join our **BUSINESS ORIENTATION**
at TRITEL TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC.
Monday thru Saturday 10 AM & 2 PM
Unit 2602-2603 Orient Square, Emerald Avenue,
Ortigas Center, Pasig City
For inquiries and reservations,
call our Customer Service Hotline at 687-5010

PRONTO EXPRESS DISTRIBUTION, INC.

an expanding moving, forwarding, courier and consolidator company is in need of the following:

OPERATIONS MANAGER - COURIER

- Male, 30 to 37 years old
- One to two years experience in Courier - International & Domestic
- Excellent communication skills both in written & oral
- Computer literate
- Hardworking & willing to work long hours

TELEPHONE OPERATOR

- Female, Single, 23 to 30 years old
- Computer literate
- Can speak English fluently
- With one year experience as telephone operator

SHIPPING CLERK

- Male, 25 to 35 years old
- Graduate of any 4 year course preferably Business
- Good communication skills both in written & oral
- Computer literate
- With one to two years experience as shipping clerk

ACCOUNTING CLERK

- Male or Female, 23 to 30 years old
- Accounting graduate
- Computer literate
- With one to two years experience as accounting clerk

ASST. WAREHOUSEMAN SUPERVISOR

- Male, single, 23 to 35 years old
- Graduate of any 4 year course preferably Business Administration
- One to two years experience in freight forwarding & warehousing
- Computer literate

APPLICANTS MAY SEND THEIR
COMPREHENSIVE RESUMÉ WITH PICTURE TO:
THE PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT
G/F DOÑA POTENCIANA BUILDING
#1195-C PASONG TAMO CORNER YAKAL STREETS
MAKATI CITY, 1200
OR SEND THRU OUR E-MAIL ADDRESS: pronexdi@philonline.com

Your career might only be a click of the mouse away.

JOB ONLINE

VISIT US AT
www.jobmarketonline.com

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

OPERATIONS MANAGER

- ☑ Male or female, not more than 45 years old;
- ☑ Minimum 5 years experience in a supervisory capacity;
- ☑ Certified Public Accountant (CPA) with experience in government regulatory requirements of the equities market;
- ☑ Computer literate;
- ☑ Analytical, hardworking and trustworthy;
- ☑ Possess excellent inter-personal skills and can represent the company in meetings with regulatory agencies.

Interested applicants are requested to send their comprehensive resumé with a 2x2 photo not later than **February 17, 2001** to:

**The Vice President
W2405-A, West Tower
Philippine Stock Exchange Centre
Exchange Road, Pasig City
E-mail: jm1@inquirer.com.ph
(Subject: ASEC)**

We are a small but highly successful real estate company who is in urgent need of:

MARKETING DIRECTOR

Qualifications:

- ☑ Male or female
- ☑ At least five (5) years experience in the playing field and with wide and extensive contacts
- ☑ Hardworking and motivated
- ☑ Good communication and interpersonal skills
- ☑ Can formulate, develop, promote, train, enhance client-agent relationships and implement a market-oriented campaign

Attractive package awaits the right person.
Please send your resumé to:

OMNI ASIA PROPERTY VENTURES, INC.
7th Floor Philsteel Tower
140 Amorsolo Street, Legaspi Village
Makati City

CENTURY WOODS, INC.

LADIES,

If you are between 20-30 years old, with pleasing personality, creative, proactive, articulate, able to work with minimum supervision and preferably with an interior design background or inclination;

YOU
may just be the

Executive Assistant / Store Manager

we are looking for.

See us for an interview at:

Century Woods, Inc.
1780 Nicanor Garcia St. (formerly Reposo)
Brgy. Bel-Air, Makati City on February 5 to 10, 2001
From 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon.
Bring your resumé and one (1) ID photo.

SEND YOUR RESUMÉS INSTANTLY
VISIT US AT **www.jobmarketonline.com**

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
JOBMarket
ONLINE

MANAGERIAL

CHINATRUST (PHILS.)
COMMERCIAL BANK CORPORATION

(subsidiary of Chinatrust Commercial Bank, the largest private commercial bank in Taiwan)

YOU can be part of our growing organization

LAWYER

- ☐ Male or Female, not more than 40 years old
- ☐ Member of the Philippine Bar
- ☐ Must have at least 3-5 years experience in a commercial/universal bank

LEGAL ASSISTANT

- ☐ Female lawyer not more than 35 years old
- ☐ With at least one (1) year legal experience
- ☐ New lawyers are welcome to apply

TREASURY MKTG. OFFCRS (for Corporates)

- ☐ Graduate of any business course
- ☐ 21-30 years old
- ☐ With at least 2 years experience in servicing top to middle corporate accounts

NETWORK ADMINISTRATOR

- ☐ College graduate
- ☐ Must have at least 3 years working experience in managing local and wide area networks, preferably in a banking environment
- ☐ Well adept in Unix network environment and familiar with Novell and Windows NT networks

APPLICATION PROGRAMMER

- ☐ College graduate
- ☐ Must have at least 3 years experience programming in Micro Focus Cobol under a Unix environment
- ☐ Experience in Visual Basic is an advantage

SYSTEMS ANALYST

- ☐ Graduate of a 4-year Computer Course or Industrial Engineering
- ☐ Experience in programming is an advantage

AUDIT STAFF

- ☐ Must not be over 30 years old
- ☐ Accounting graduate, preferably CPA
- ☐ With at least 2 years audit experience in a commercial or universal bank
- ☐ Must be willing to travel

Interested applicants may send their letters of application, resumé, and latest 2x2 colored picture to:

HUMAN RESOURCE DIVISION
Chinatrust (Phils.) Commercial Bank Corp.
15th Floor, Tower One, Ayala Triangle
Ayala Avenue cor. Paseo de Roxas, Makati City

Roche

Vitamins

Finance & IT Manager
(Application Code: FIM)

Who we are
We are a multinational company that produces and markets vitamins and carotenoids for use in the animal feed, food, pharmaceutical and cosmetics industries. We have a strong commitment to research and development as a way of continuously improving our products and production processes – a commitment which has made us the world's biggest producer of vitamins and carotenoids after nature itself.

The Position
Reporting to the General Manager of Roche Vitamins Philippines, the main responsibilities of this position include accounting, tax reporting, budgeting, SAP system at user level and treasury encompassing credit and foreign exchange. Additional responsibilities include the establishment and maintenance of an internal computer network for Roche Vitamins Philippines. A highly competitive compensation and benefits package are among the special perks of the position.

Who you are
To qualify, you must be a Certified Public Accountant with a minimum of 5 years experience in the same or equivalent position, covering all aspects described above. Leadership, outstanding interpersonal skills, facility in oral and written communications as well as proficiency in MS Office programs are required.

Who to contact
Submit your resumé with recent passport size picture and contact telephone number no later than **Friday, 9 February 2001** to:

The Human Resources Director - Application Code FIM
Roche (Philippines) Inc., 2252 Don Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City.

Only qualified candidates will be called for interview.

We are one of the leading agribusiness company in the country, open towards extending the latest technology and processes to our farmers and stakeholders.

In our thrust to be continuously competitive in the industry, we then seek for a competent individual to join our growing team as:

HEAD OF BUSINESS PLANNING & MARKETING SERVICES GROUP

- ➢ She is 27-35 years of age and a bonafide graduate of commerce, business management, marketing, or statistics course. MBA degree would be a distinct advantage.
- ➢ Possesses 3-4 years of related working experience in business planning, market research and brand management in a managerial capacity. Familiarity of the Philippine agricultural industry / market is a distinct advantage.
- ➢ Displays strong analytical, communication and presentation skills, she too, is an innovator in coming up with unique ideas in marketing communication and brand promotions.
- ➢ Challenger, results-oriented and a strategic thinker, this leader delivers quality output with speed. She maintains an open eye for details and a positive outlook for change and continuous improvement.

A rewarding compensation and benefits package await the successful applicant. Interested parties may send their credentials to P.O. Box 1538 Makati City, 1229

HSBC

The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited, with operations in the Philippines since 1875, is part of one of the world's leading and most strongly capitalised banking and financial services institutions.

We are seeking applications from highly motivated, committed and service-oriented individuals who wish to pursue a long-term career in banking in:

PERSONAL FINANCIAL SERVICES

Be part of HSBC's dynamic team of professionals in Personal Banking who provide excellent service to customers in the branches and over the telephone in our Call Centre.

We are inviting applications from people with the following qualifications:

- College degree from a top university
- Effective communication and interpersonal skills
- A desire to work in a customer service area
- Banking or insurance experience an advantage
- Chinese language fluency a plus
- Philippine nationality (this is a requirement)

Qualified applicants will undergo a selection process which includes a series of tests and interviews.

Extensive training, an automated work environment, and an attractive remuneration package which recognises and rewards performance await qualified candidates.

If you can commit to a high pressure but rewarding career in personal banking and be part of HSBC's 125 years of financial service excellence in the Philippines, send a full curriculum vitae, transcript of records and a recent 2x2 photograph, together with a letter of application on or before 12 February 2001 to:

Vice President
Resourcing and Development
HSBC
The Enterprise Center Tower I
6766 Ayala Avenue corner Paseo de Roxas
Makati City

NOTE: TELEPHONE QUERIES WILL NOT BE ENTERTAINED

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BETTER PEOPLE,
BETTER JOBS.

www.jobmarketonline.com

JOBMarket ONLINE

MANAGERIAL

insync
INSTITUTIONAL SYNERGY, INC.

EXECUTIVE SEARCH SERVICES

Our client, a progressive multinational manufacturing company, is in need of highly qualified candidates for the position of

FINANCE DIRECTOR

(Code: FD-21501)

THE JOB:

Reporting to the General Manager, the hired candidate will direct and manage the accounting and finance operations of the company. He or she will be tasked to streamline and increase efficiencies of the department as well as appropriately advise and influence other departments to optimize the over-all performance of the business.

THE REQUIREMENTS:

The ideal candidate is a CPA, with at least five years' managerial experience. He or she should have gained experience with a multinational fast moving manufacturing company, and have preferably worked abroad. Apart from a solid knowledge of accounting and finance, he or she should have proven experience in re-engineering the finance function from concentration on pure recording, towards enhancing business value and providing the management team with relevant and timely management information. He or she should have change management experience, with the ability to quickly build credibility and win the confidence of people within the organization and consequently influence them. A rugged, quick-thinking individual with persistence and focus will be suitable. Solid computer knowledge with experience in up to date techniques is a must.

The company offers a competitive compensation and benefits package and a rewarding career. Qualified applicants are invited to send or personally hand carry their resumés with application letters, including contact numbers, current and expected pay, and a recent photograph (indicate code on the envelope) on or before February 24, 2001 to: **Institutional Synergy, Inc., Unit 608, 6/F Taipan Place, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City or e-mail to:** execsearch@insync.com.ph

(We will only reply to those considered for interview)

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insync
INSTITUTIONAL SYNERGY, INC.

EXECUTIVE SEARCH SERVICES

Our client is an international petroleum tank testing company using the most advanced technology in the industry. The company is establishing operations in the Philippines and seeks to recruit a

PETROLEUM ENGINEERING MANAGER

(Code: PEM-021401)

THE JOB:

Reporting to the International Director, the hired candidate will be responsible for client servicing and development, providing them expert technical advice in underground petroleum storage testing results. He/she will recruit and manage a group of technical and support staff, and oversee the day to day operations of the company.

THE REQUIREMENTS:

The ideal candidate is a licensed Mechanical Engineer with at least 5 years' experience with underground petroleum storage tanks and service station equipment. Oil company experience in a retail engineering role would be an advantage. He/she should have management experience, and strong communication, interpersonal, and leadership skills. Solid computer knowledge specifically in Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, etc.) is a must.

An excellent salary package will be offered to the most qualified candidate, including opportunities to travel internationally for training and development. This is an urgent requirement. Qualified applicants are invited to send or personally hand carry their resumés with application letters, including contact numbers, current and expected pay, and a recent photograph (indicate code on the envelope) on or before February 24, 2001 to: **Institutional Synergy, Inc., Unit 608, 6/F Taipan Place, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City or e-mail to:** execsearch@insync.com.ph

(We will only reply to those considered for interview)

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

3 SALES REPRESENTATIVES

- Male or Female, 25-35 years old, with pleasing personality
- College graduate
- Experience not required but willing to be trained
- Good communication skills, proactive & self-motivated
- To market high-value bank equipment

5 COMPUTER ENGINEERS

- Male or Female, 20-30 years old
- Graduate in Computer Engineering Course
- New graduate or with work experience
- Self-motivated & can work with minimum supervision
- Willing to be assigned to the provinces and/or to be trained abroad

2 PROGRAMMERS

- Male or Female, 25-35 years old
- Graduate in Computer Science course
- At least 2 years experience in programming
- Self-motivated & can work with minimum supervision
- Willing to be assigned to the provinces and/or to be trained abroad

1 SYSTEMS ANALYST

- Male or Female, 25-35 years old
- Graduate in Computer Science course
- At least 2 years experience in supervising programmers
- Good communication skills and good in report writing and documentation
- For the right person, the work offers career challenge with bright compensation potential
- Willing to be assigned to the provinces and/or to be trained abroad

1 SECRETARY

- Female, 20-25 years old, with pleasing personality
- College graduate, preferably in Accountancy
- Computer literate (MS-Word, Excel, Access)
- Good command of English, orally & in writing
- Good organizational and human relation skills

Apply in person with NBI & Police Clearances, 2x2 ID picture, Transcript of records, and other pertinent documents at:

RSL ENTERPRISES, INC.
G/F Skyland Plaza Bldg.,
Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City
(near Makati Post Office)

FPDsavills
INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY CONSULTANTS

The leading professional property and facilities management company in the Philippines invites applicants for:

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR FOR PROPERTY OPERATIONS

- Graduate of any Engineering course, preferably Civil or Mechanical, licensed
- With minimum 7 years property management experience in a senior management level
- Capable of handling overall management of 15-20 properties/buildings
- Good verbal and written communication and people management
- Computer literate

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR FOR MARKETING

- Graduate of any Business course, masteral degree would be an advantage
- With minimum 7 years experience in marketing management
- With 3 years in senior level management
- With background in high-end/commercial/residential projects
- Knowledgeable in financial management
- Computer literate

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

- Between 30-40 years old
- Graduate of Business, Engineering or Architectural course
- With minimum 5 years related work experience
- Can handle people from top to bottom level of the organization
- With organizational skills and business orientation
- Very good written & verbal communication skills
- Computer literate

PROPERTY MANAGERS

- Male, 25-40 years old;
- Graduates of Mechanical or Electrical Engineering; results oriented
- With at least 3 years experience in property management or hold a certificate of attendance in property management courses from any reputable school or organization

BUILDING ENGINEERS

- Male, 25-40 years old
- Licensed Mechanical or Electrical Engineer
- With 3 years experience in the operation and maintenance of electrical & mechanical equipment, particularly in high rise buildings

AUDIT SUPERVISOR

- Male/Female, 25-29 years old
- Graduate of Accounting, CPA
- With 3 years relevant work experience in operations and financial audit
- Willing to do field work; willing to work long hours
- Computer literate

BUILDING TECHNICIANS

(mechanical/electrical/aircon/plumbers/carpenters/electronic)

- Male, high school or vocational course graduate
- With 2-3 years work related experience

SECRETARIES

- Female, 20-26 years old
- College Graduate
- With at least 1 year relevant work experience
- Computer literate
- With pleasing personality

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANTS

- Female, graduate of Accounting
- Knowledgeable in general accounting principles
- With at least 2 years relevant work experience
- Computer literate

CONCIERGE

- Female, 21-26 years old;
- Graduates of Mass Communication or Hotel & Restaurant Management
- Preferably with at least 1 year experience in a hotel or restaurant
- With very pleasing personality, fluent in English

Interested applicants may personally submit, fax, or email their comprehensive resume, transcript of records and recent 2X2 photo not later than Feb. 16, 2001 to

THE HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
FPD SAVILLS PHILLIPINES INC.
Bldg. B, Bonifacio Centre, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, Metro Manila
Fax No. 889-1191 Email Address: lsgo@fbglobalcity.com

A Publicly listed Corporation is in need of an

ACCOUNTING SUPERVISOR

Preferably a Certified Public Accountant
With at least three (3) years experience
gained from an auditing company
Can Prepare Financial Statements
General Bookkeeping knowledge
Willing to start immediately
Familiar with MS Word
and Excel Applications
Police and NBI cleared

Please come in person. Bring comprehensive bio-data, 2 x 2 picture, Transcript of records, NBI and Police clearance.

Interview with Atty. Agnes Lopez-Villano:
Jan. 29 & 31 from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.
35th Foor, Rufino Pacific Tower
6784 Ayala Avenue, Makati City

CDEC CARGO DATA EXCHANGE CENTER, INC.

We're currently looking for dynamic people who will be a part of our growing team and wants to give their career a much-needed jumpstart! If you're any of the following, then you might just be what we need!!!

Position/s available:

Tech. Support Engineer (1)

Male or Female, B.S. Computer Science Graduate or any related fields of study, Knowledgeable in present cargo processes and procedures, Minimum of 1 year work experience in the cargo industry, Knowledgeable in dial-up networking will be an ideal advantage, Not more than 27 years of age, Excellent communication skills

Tech. Support Assistants (4)

Female, B.S. Computer Science, B.S. Marketing graduate or any related fields of study (Fresh Graduates, Undergrads and On The Job Trainees are welcome to apply), Knowledgeable in present cargo processes and procedures an advantage, 18-25 years of age, Excellent communication skills, Pleasing personality, Work experience not necessary.

Please submit your resumé through the following:

By mail : 3rd Floor, PAIR-PAGS Center,
Ninoy Aquino Avenue, Pasay City
By fax : 854-8139
By e-mail : michaelso@edsamail.com.ph

URGENTLY NEEDED

GRANT ADMINISTRATOR FOR FINANCE

The NGOs for Integrated Protected Areas (NIPA), Inc., a consortium of non-governmental organizations implementing the Conservation of Priority Protected Area Project (CPPAP) in partnership with the World Bank and the DENR is seeking an experienced Grant Administrator for Finance (GAF). This is a real opportunity for someone with knowledge and experience in development work, with ability to deal with international donors/partners and with sufficient experience in finance management. Bachelor's degree and a minimum of 3 years experience required.

Reporting to the Program Manager, your responsibilities will encompass:

- Overall planning and control of financial activities and financial systems of the project
- Management of Livelihood Funds
- Resource Mobilization

We offer a competitive compensation and benefits package including health insurance, pension plan and a salary range of P390,000 to P585,000 per annum.

Candidates should forward resumé with passport size photo to:

The HRMD - Administration Manager
NIPA, Inc., Room 701 Fil Garcia Tower
140 Kalayaan corner Mayaman Street, Diliman, Quezon City
E-mail address: nipa@nipa.org.ph

Deadline for submission of application: **February 8, 2001**

Previous applicants need not to apply.

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

By a dynamic Interior Architecture Company

Secretary/ Receptionist

- Female
- 25 to 30 years old
- With pleasing personality
- College graduate, preferably of Marketing, Management or Accounting, with at least one year work experience
- Has command ability and good conversant

Apply with resumé and picture at #11 Alfonso St., Floodway, Rosario, Pasig or call tel. no. 656-0103/ 656-5735, look for Leslie or you may fax your bio-data at telefax no. 656-7528

MANAGERIAL

The future is e-commerce

Global Sources leads the field in the development of new products to connect the worlds trading partners. We provide e-commerce solutions for volume buyers and their suppliers and offer exceptional opportunities in this most exciting of business areas. We are currently looking for a:

Technical Copy Editor

This position requires a seasoned professional to lead a team of young editors, writers and support staff in the preparation of a monthly print and electronic media magazine for international circulation. You must have an engineering degree with at least 3 years editorial experience in business or technical publications and strong leadership skills. Proficiency in the English language both spoken and written is required. The ability to work to tight deadlines and produce outstanding results is also essential.

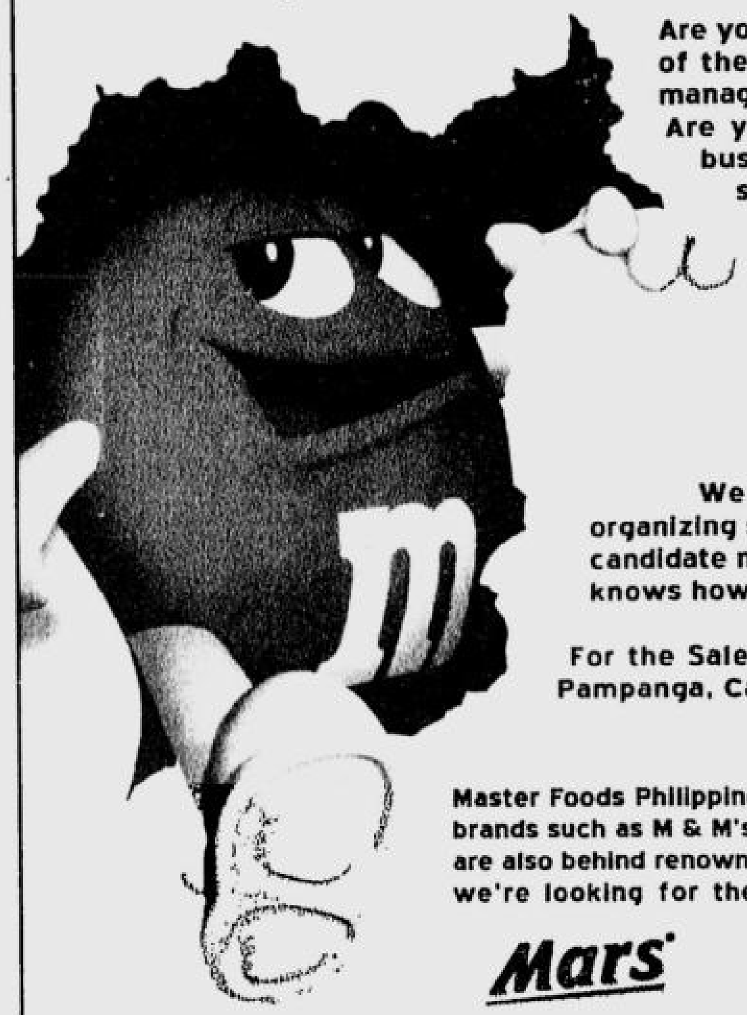
A competitive remuneration package and a truly challenging, international and dynamic work environment awaits the right candidates. Interested parties should send their resume and contact details to any of the following:

Corporate Human Resources
online: career.globalsources.com
e-mail: asmhr@globalsources.com
fax: 892-4087
post: P.O. Box 4597, MCPO, Makati City

global sources
www.globalsources.com

We're on the lookout...

Calling all sales and trade marketing professionals!!!



Are you currently holding a position with responsibilities in any of the areas of: trade marketing management, key account management, distributor management in a consumer industry? Are you experienced in conceptualizing and implementing business building activities for consumer products in the supermarket or traditional trade?

If you are constantly in search for challenges and career growth in a fast paced organization that is continually expanding, then you need not search further.

MASTER FOODS PHILIPPINES, INC. is in need of energetic SALES ASSOCIATES and a TRADE MARKETING MANAGER.

We are looking for a degree holder with good planning and organizing skill, good initiative and proficient in communication. The candidate must also possess leadership flairs, computer literacy and knows how to drive with a valid driver's license.

For the Sales Associates position, local residents of Metro Manila, Pampanga, Cavite, Laguna, Quezon and Cagayan de Oro is preferred.

Master Foods Philippines, a MARS, Inc. Company, is responsible for such snack food brands such as M & M's®, SNICKERS®, MARS®, MILKYWAY® and STARBURST®. We are also behind renowned pet food brands PEDIGREE®, WHISKAS® and CHAPPI®. And we're looking for the most energetic and driven men and women to join us!

Mars m&m's SNICKERS whiskas

To apply, send your application letter and resume to
The Personnel & Organization Manager
Master Foods Philippines, Inc., Ayala Life-FGU Center
19/F, 6811 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
or e-mail: mfpi.jobs@ap.effem.com
The application period ends on February 15, 2001
We will respond only to qualified applicants
Previous applicants need not apply

Mars

Make a career choice online. Visit us at

www.jobmarketonline.com

Get the chance to earn P20,000 per month!!! Plus transpo allowance!

If you are at least 21 years old, a college graduate, with pleasing personality, outspoken and results-oriented, then we'd like to meet you on February 7, 2001, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the 29/F Bankard Training Center, Robinsons-Equitable Bank Tower, ADB Avenue corner Poveda Street, Ortigas Center, Pasig City for a FREE ORIENTATION SEMINAR.

Move to greater heights with the country's leading credit card company. Be a partner in making our cardmember base grow. Join us as an agent and earn huge commissions by marketing credit cards with the most innovative features in the industry.

Interested applicants should bring a complete resumé with one 2x2 photo. Please come in business attire. Registration is from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. only.

RCBC BANKARD®
A YGC Company

We are a US based telecommunications company, rapidly emerging as a highly competent "Applications Service Provider". We specialize in providing a wide array of broadband and IP based services and solutions, empowering our clients with the advantages and technological tools for the 21st century. We offer a challenging and rewarding work environment that provides balance between your professional and personal life. We are inviting YOU to become a part of our dynamic organization as ...

ACCOUNT MANAGERS

☐ As an Account Manager you will aggressively research, identify, prospect and develop new sales within the defined sales territory; Manage each customer relationship via an organized and planned sales strategy; Design creative business applications and solutions to address customer requirements; Provide technical and executive-level presentations on solutions and products; and Meet or exceed management's performance expectations with respect to attainment of direct sales objectives and revenue targets.

Qualifications:
- BS Degree in Business Management, Engineering or other related technical degrees.
- Proven Sales success in selling IT solutions, preferably within the ISP and Telecommunications industries.
- Strong sense of urgency, understands Solution selling, with good Time management and Organizational skills.
- Requires effective written & verbal skills, and outstanding interpersonal & presentation skills.

NETWORK ENGINEERS

☐ As a Network Engineer, you will be tasked to efficiently administer and configure the company's Internet network infrastructure and WAN Project connections; Provide technical support, training and consultancy to the development teams and other internal staff.

Qualifications:
- Must have at least 2 years experience in the installation, configuration, administration and support of the following:
  - TCP/IP, SNMP Specialist;
  - Windows NT Server 4.0, 5.0, Windows 2000 Advanced Server;
  - Red Hat, LINUX, UNIX, Internet Server Pool, Oracle and SQL Server Administration;
  - Physical & Logical Design, Knowledge of Solaris and Internet related technologies;
  - Network Products, Router and Switch Hub Configuration, and
  - Network Monitoring and Management
- Bachelor Degree in Computer Engineering, ECE or any related course.
- Hardworking, creative, resourceful highly analytical and team player.
- Excellent oral and written communication skills.
- Not more than 30 yrs. Old.

Qualified applicants please send resumé to:
Fax no.: 850 7771, or
Email: hrd@faxtrack.net.ph or
Drop at mailbox #2105, Richville Corporate Tower, Alabang-Zapote Rd., Madrigal Business Park, Muntinlupa City.

A TOP MULTI-AWARDEE IATA TRAVEL AGENCY INVITES APPLICANTS FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:

TRAVEL CONSULTANT

- Good attitude. Good communication skills
- Worked in a non-IATA or IATA agency for 2 years or more
- Working knowledge of booking/ticket issuance
- Working knowledge of fare and documentation procedures

WE OFFER:

- Good compensation, quarterly profit-sharing, rice subsidy, hospitalization plan and travel benefits

Send resumé and passport-size photo to:

P.O. Box 1781
Makati City

AMELLAR SOLUTIONS

A fast growing IT company specializing in system integration for local governments is in need of personnel with the ff. qualifications:

- FINE ARTS/ ADVERTISING ARTS GRADUATE
  - willing to be trained in professional WEB DESIGN
  - superior skills in the creative conceptualization and graphic execution of ideas
  - preferably with background in graphic software such as Corel and Adobe
- ACCOUNTANT
  - Accounting graduate with at least 1 year experience in corporate accounting
  - preferably with background in Auditing
  - fast worker, efficient, with good moral character

For interested applicants please send your letter of application & resume to
blazaro@amellar.com

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

for a 24-hour convenience store/coffee shop in BF Homes Parañaque

****

OPERATIONS MANAGER – graduate of Marketing or any business related course; at least 4 years managerial experience in retail operations like 24-hour convenience stores with foodservice operations.

COFFEESHOP Supervisor – graduate of HRA/HRM, Nutrition, Marketing or any related course; with 2 years managerial experience in a restaurant.

HEAD COOK – at least 5 years experience as Head/Chief Cook in casual restaurant; preferably male, 35 years and above;

CAPTAIN WAITER / BARTENDER – college graduate; at least 5 years experience as senior waiter/bartender in a casual restaurant; male, at least 25 years old with training as "Barista";

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT/CASHIER- graduate of Accounting or Business Management; at least 3-5 years experience as cashier and/or administrative assistant in a restaurant;

STOCK CLERK-Accounting graduate; at least 4 years experience in retail inventory management/stock clerk in a restaurant; male, at least 25 years old;

ALSO NEEDED-Assistant Cooks, Cook's Helper, Dishwasher/Janitor, Waiters/Busboys, Grocery Cashiers, Stockman, Bagger

Send detailed Bio-Data with contact numbers and 2x2 pictures to MIO MART c/o First Place Inc., Suite 108 Alumni Center, UP Diliman, Q.C.

Your connection to better people, better jobs.

www.jobmarketonline.com

TECHNICAL/PROFESSIONAL

Excellent Opportunities in Canada

World Rich Technologies Inc. is a professional expanding business located in Toronto, Canada. Our continued success has shown we are the leading company in the Information Technical Industry related to the Internet with the best products and services. We are an established company with clients throughout North America and even worldwide.World Rich Technologies Inc. has chosen to give this great opportunity to join our dynamic team of professionals.

You will be offered excellent salary + benefits plus great growth potential within our company.

The following positions are available:

Intermediate Web Designer

Must have excellent skills in:
Macromedia Dreamweaver, Fireworks, Flash 4.0 (not essential).
Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator.
As an intermediate web designer you must have an excellent sense of design.

Web Developer/Programmer

Technical Requirements/experience:
Minimum of 6 months experience in the establishment and design of web sites.

Experience using JavaScript, CSS, VBScript, HTML, SSI, CGI scripting in ASP, php, encryption practices including SSL, and FTP.
Experience creating MS SQL databases.
Experience working with NT server 4.0, IIs.
Experience with web analyser tools and web site statistics.
Knowledge of Certificate Authority issuance and security (e-commerce).

Programmers will need to help stabilize current applications and operations. Application programming and trouble shooting on UNIX and NT platforms, working with scripting and C.

Please mail or courier your resumé (contact information and if possible provide email address, etc.) giving full details including your earliest availability to join our company must reach on the following address by February 15, 2001. Any applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

PLEASE DO NOT APPLY MORE THAN ONCE

After receiving your resumé interview date and place will be advised.

World Rich Technologies Inc.
Suite # 201, 1840 Lawrence Ave. East
Toronto, Ontario Canada
Postal Code M1R 2Y4
Phone: 416-755-1696
Fax: 416-755-1856
www.worldrichinc.com
email: info@worldrichinc.com

** This is not a contract work, this is a permanent job. No recruitment agencies or immigration consultants please.

We are currently in need of the following personnel

SALES REPRESENTATIVE

(Drug Division)

- Male, 21 to 30 years old
- College graduate
- With experience
- Excellent communication & interpersonal skills

ROVING COORDINATORS

(Food & Drug Division)

- Female, 21 to 25 years old
- College graduate, with pleasing personality
- with experience

PROMO MERCHANDISERS

(Food Division)

- Male or female, 21 to 30 years old
- At least college level
- With experience

Interested parties can apply personally on February 8 to 9, 2001 between 9:00 - 11:00 am with their bio-data and their credentials.

ROMAR'S MANUFACTURING
Broadway Court No. 96 4th Street,
New Manila, Quezon City
Tel. No. 722-7411 to 15 Room 9

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PREMIERE CITY CLUB

The hottest spa and fitness center in New Manila, Q.C. is in need of the ff. personnel:

- **2 (F) FRONT DESK OFFICERS**
  - college graduate of any course
- **4 (M/F) FITNESS INSTRUCTORS**
  - PT & other paramedical courses are welcome
  - part-timers are also welcome
- **2 (M/F) BADMINTON INSTRUCTORS**
  - part-timers are welcome
- **1 (M/F) ACCOUNTANT**
  - computer literate
- **4 (M/F) LOCKER ATTENDANTS & MAINTENANCE CREW**
  - willing to be trained
  - at least college level
  - preferably with experience in a known fastfood or any service-oriented establishment

EXPERIENCE NOT NECESSARY BUT AN ADVANTAGE

IF YOU ARE 19-27 YEARS OLD, HARDWORKING, HAS A PLEASING PERSONALITY, CUSTOMER AND SERVICE-ORIENTED, WILLING TO WORK WITH OTHER YOUNG PROFESSIONALS... YOU'RE THE ONE WE'RE LOOKING FOR!

Come in person together with your resumé with ID picture at:

PREMIERE CITY CLUB BLDG.
#19 & 21 1st ST., NEW MANILA, QUEZON CITY
(near St. Paul Coll., Q.C.)
from Mon-Fri between 2-6 PM
and look for Jay or Nestor.

Wanted For Immediate Hiring!

DATA ENCODERS

Qualifications:

- Female, not more than 35 years old
- Above average typing skills; at least 35wpm
- Computer literate & experienced in use of computers

Note: Experienced encoders will be given preference. Apply in person with bio-data, latest 2x2 picture and other pertinent documents at:

Personnel Department
MEGA-RMG3 Bldg.,
667 Sgt. Bumatay St., Mandaluyong City
E-mail address: **reggie@megacomputer.com**

Urban Program for Livelihood Finance & Training

A Filipino **Non-Government Organization specialized in Micro-Finance** with community-based pgms in CALMANA, QC and Bulacan, is in need of:

2 FINANCE & ADMIN MANAGERS (ref. FAM)

The position involves monitoring all administrative tasks and managing the team in head office

- Based in Bulacan or Quezon City
- Must be accounting graduate and computer literate
- Former experience in an equivalent position

1 ACCOUNTANT (ref. Acc)

- Based in Quezon City
- Must be accounting graduate and computer literate
- At least 1 year experience in general accounting

1 PROJECT MANAGER (ref. PMg)

She/He will manage a 7 people team aiming at improving all the services to our beneficiaries

- Based in Caloocan
- 30 years and above, with experience in team management
- Creative, with a sense of initiative and able to create training modules

1 JOB HUNTING TRAINER (ref. JHT)

She/He will help young people of poor communities to find a job in formal companies

- Based in Quezon City
- Must be a Psychology Graduate and computer literate
- With good interpersonal communication, flexible and autonomous

1 SOCIAL PROGRAM COORDINATOR (ref. SPC)

She/He will participate in setting up a new program for social support to our beneficiaries

- Based in Caloocan
- Must be a licensed Social Worker, 30 years and above
- With at least 2 years programs supervisory experience particularly in community organizing, and good in networking
- Experience in primary health care and clinical will be an advantage

All applicants must show a strong motivation to work in an NGO and a deep social commitment

If you feel that the above-mentioned qualifications suit your personality, please send your resumé with 2x2 recent picture and application letter (specifying the position reference).

Address : **HRD**
UPLIFT Phils., Inc.
#172 A. Mabini St.,
Maypajo, Caloocan City
E-mail uplift@uplift.org.ph

ACNielsen

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The Global leader in market research, information and analysis

CLIENT SERVICE MANAGER

You will be responsible for:

- Business Development
- Actively partner with highly respected experts in the market industry
- Creating a competitive edge for the company's products and services
- Managing research projects, together with a team of Executives
- Analyzing consumer needs and provide market insights.

Job requirements:

- At least 4 years work experience in market research, sales, marketing, media relations, survey research, product management and other related fields
- Proficient in Oral and Written Communication Skills

CLIENT SERVICE EXECUTIVE

You will be responsible for:

- Managing research projects
- Analyzing consumer needs and provide market insights.
- Client Servicing and Presentations

Job requirements:

- Graduate of Statistics, Economics, Marketing, Business Administration, Psychology, Journalism and other related fields
- With at least 1-2 years work experience in market research, sales, marketing, survey research, product management and other related fields
- Proficient in Oral and Written Communication Skills

Send your resume, transcript of records and most recent photo to:

ACNielsen (Philippines), Inc.
Human Resources Department
15th Floor, Columbia Tower, Ortigas Avenue, Mandaluyong City
Tel No.: 727-37-01 to 20 Fax: 726-14-16
or e-mail to: **faye.bonoan@acnielsen.com.ph**

WRIGLEY PHILIPPINES, INC.

A WORLD-CLASS MULTI-NATIONAL CONSUMER MANUFACTURING COMPANY IS SEEKING APPLICANTS FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:

AIRCON/BOILER TECHNICIAN

☑ Male, between 25 to 30 years old
☑ At least second year college
☑ Preferably a Certified Plant Mechanic (CPM) - General
☑ Has a minimum of 5 years actual experience in aircon and boiler maintenance and operations
☑ Knowledge in computer
☑ Knowledge in PLC operation is an advantage

PROCESS MECHANIC

☑ Male, 25 to 30 years old
☑ At least second year college
☑ 3 to 5 years experience in Industrial Mechanic
☑ Passed Certified Plant Mechanic examinations
☑ Ability to operate oxy-ace and arc welding
☑ Knowledge in pneumatic and hydraulic operation is an advantage
☑ Has a wide experience in the maintenance of process equipment such as mixers and screw conveyors

THE COMPANY OFFERS COMPETITIVE REMUNERATION, BENEFIT PACKAGES AND A FIVE-DAY WORK WEEK. IF YOU FIT THE ABOVE QUALIFICATIONS, WE INVITE YOU TO SEND YOUR RESUMÉ IMMEDIATELY, WITH YOUR TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDS AND ONE (1) PASSPORT SIZE COLORED PICTURE TO:

WRIGLEY PHILIPPINES INC.
P.O. BOX NO. 1857 MCPO
1258 MAKATI CITY
or
email your application to
rmorelos@wrigley.com

NOTE: ONLY QUALIFIED APPLICANTS SHALL BE CALLED FOR EXAMS AND INTERVIEW

TECHNICAL / PROFESSIONAL

Get your career off the ground.

JOB ONLINE
www.jobmarketonline.com

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING!!!

We are a leader in the fast-growing foodservice equipment systems industry engaged in all facets of the business (i.e. consulting, designing, manufacturing import/export, servicing). We are in urgent need of professionals to fill the following positions:

HRD MANAGER

M/F, at least 30 years old graduate of either Ll B, BSBA or BS/AB Psycho; With at least two years experience in general HRD work, holding similar position preferably in an industrial setting, computer literate; proficient in written and oral communication, has facility in dealing with all levels of the organization; dynamic, self motivated, used to working long hours and very responsible.

OPERATIONS MANAGER

M/F, at least 30 years old; graduate of either BSIE or BSME; With at least 2 years experience in similar position preferably in an industrial setting; proficient in written and oral communication, adept at planning and getting things done through other people; dynamic, used to working under pressure and for long hours.

SALES MANAGER

M/F, at least 30 years old; graduate of either Business, Engineering or HRM; With at least 2 years experience in similar position, at least 2 years experience in direct selling; personable and proficient in written and oral communication; adept at formulating sales plans and motivating the sales force; with positive outlook even under pressure and comfortable in dealing with different kinds of people.

TECHNICAL SERVICES MANAGER

M/F, at least 30 years old; BSME graduate; With at least 2 years experience in similar position and 6 years actual field sales experience; knowledgeable in the installation and repairs of refrigeration/cooking equipment, electrical and electronic controls; proficient in written and oral communication; with ability to train and motivate subordinates.

MATERIALS CONTROL HEAD

M/F, at least 30 years old, graduate of either BSBA, BSME, BSEE, BSIE, With at least 2 years experience in Materials Control/Inventory Management work, holding similar position preferably in an industrial setting. Computer literate, adept at EOQ determination and other materials management systems. Self-motivated, team player, honest, trustworthy willing to work long hours.

SPECIAL LEGAL ASSISTANT

M/F, not over 40 years old; Graduate of Bachelor of Laws from reputable universities. Well versed in corporate, criminal, and labor laws. Members of the Bar or Bar reviewees are welcome to apply. Reporting directly to the President, he/she must be proficient in written and oral communication and willing to work long hours.

PRODUCTION & INVENTORY ANALYST

M/F, not over 35 years old. Graduate of Industrial Engineering with substantial exposure in a manufacturing set-up. Computer literate, particular to details and willing to work long hours. Honest and trustworthy.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Female, 26-35 years old pref. single with pleasing personality. Graduate of any 4-year course. Highly organized. Proficient in oral and written communication. Computer literate. Reporting to the President she must have worked for senior manager for at least one year. Willing to work long hours.

SALES EXECUTIVE / TRAINEE

M/F, 20-35 years old. Engineering. Architecture, Business, Interior Design, and HRM graduates. Should be dynamic, full of zest, and with pleasing personality. Should have excellent PR, proficient in oral and written communication. Computer literate and should possess the guts to accept the challenge of trade. Previous experience in Sales is a definite advantage. Fresh graduates are welcome to apply. Undergrads with at least 60 college units plus 2 years work experience can be considered.

PROJECT ENGINEER

M/F, not over 35 years old. Engineering graduate. Working knowledge in ACAD R14, and working experience in kitchen equipment are an advantage. Can interpret mechanical plans. Highly analytical and creative. Can work under pressure and willing to work long hours.

For the successful candidates, we offer a highly rewarding career, training, competitive salary. Please apply in person or send/fax your resumé with latest 2x2 picture and other credentials to:

HRD DEPARTMENT
G/F NHVC Centre Bldg., No. 2 Rincon St., Malinta, Valenzuela City
Tel. Nos. 292-4421 to 22 locals 214/217 Fax No. 292-4858
E-mail: gmcmmi@manila_online.net

The Royal Norwegian Embassy, Commercial Section
(Norwegian Trade Council)
is in need of a:

Commercial Officer

Qualifications:

1. College graduate in the field of economics, business management
2. Computer literate (Word, Excel, Powerpoint)
3. 3-5 years experience in similar field
4. Relevant background about the Philippine economy and industry
5. Relevant contacts with private companies and government agencies
6. Excellent in oral and written English communication skills
7. Good background in report writing and industry studies
8. Able to work in a multi-cultural environment
9. Able to work alone or with minimum supervision
10. Embassy experience is an advantage

Interested individuals should send their letters of application together with an updated curriculum vitaé to:

Ms. Arlene Macaranas
Fax: 867-8131
E-mail: arlene.macaranas@ntc.no

All applications should be submitted on or before 14 February 2001. Only short-listed candidates will be notified. Strictly, no telephone inquiries will be entertained.

A fast-expanding company in affiliation with several U.S. companies is in need of high-caliber

Technology Professionals!

If you are a highly-skilled Programmer, Database Administrator or Network Administrator we can offer you

- ✓ Very competitive salaries (PhP 100,000 to PhP 200,000 monthly gross)
- ✓ First rate benefit packages including health benefits
- ✓ Flexible work programs
- ✓ Chance to be assigned in the U.S.

Qualifications:

- ☐ Must be self-driven and can work with minimum supervision
- ☐ Must have at least 4 years experience in IT
- ☐ Must have at least 2 years experience in JAVA, C/C++, Powerbuilder / Sybase and Oracle.

E-mail your resumés to:
qhorizon@pacific.net.ph
or visit our Website:
www.Qhorizon.com

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JOB ONLINE
www.jobmarketonline.com

ONE OF THE BIGGEST STEEL MANUFACTURING THAT BASED IN JUBAIL KSA IS IN NEED OF THE FOLLOWING PROFESSIONAL WORKERS

KRIMMLEY (POEA ACCRE. NO: 60870)

They offer:

- Placement Fee by salary deduction
- Attractive salary offer
- Prospect of long term Employment
- Standard room Accommodation
- Other benefits as per Saudi labor law

LEGAL ADVISERS

Selected candidates will be responsible in handling the legal affairs of the company, which involves employment contracts, recruitment agreements, clients purchase order or contract, sub-contract to supply structural steel works, advise company owner for legal consultation and experience in different arbitration laws to settle claims.

Applicant aged between 35 to 45 years, having an experience not less than ten years and fluent in English. Must be able to give sound advise in any commercial contracts.

INVESTMENT OFFICERS

Applicants aged between 35 to 45 years, with degree in Business Management or Banking and finance, having an experience not less than Ten Years. Able to develop and manage profitably in trading of shares and bonds, investing in currency, precious metal, equity and bond funds both local and abroad, responsible for Real Estate Investment and Management, Fluent in English. Successful applicant will report directly to the owner. Must have a valid Philippine Driving License.

CIVIL ENGINEER

Must hold an engineering degree or equivalent with at least seven years experience in civil engineering works and constructions, with knowledge of steel fabrication, fluent in English, and aged between 30 to 40 years. Applicant must hold a valid driving license.

All interested applicants may report with the following:

- 2 SETS OF RESUMÉ/BIO-DATA
- 4 PCS. 2x2 PICTURES
- CERTIFICATE OF EMPLOYMENT
- PRC ID/DIPLOMA/TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDS
- DRIVERS LICENSE

ANCHOR INTERNATIONAL
MANPOWER SERVICES, INC.
(POEA LICENSE NO.: 03-871185-1)
1020 St. Jude Bldg.,
Gen. Malvar cor. Modesto Sts., Malate, Manila
Tel. No.: 5262788/94, 5213405 Fax No.: 5262791
E-mail address: mkzg@pacific.net.ph
(ref. At the back of Iglesia ni Kristo in Pedro Gil
or 3 Blocks away at the back of Phil. Womens Univ. in Taft Ave.)

THIS AD IS APPROVED BY POEA
FOR MANPOWER POOLING ONLY/NO FEES TO BE COLLECTED
MAG-INGAT SA MGA ILLEGAL RECRUITERS

Smart Card Technology Company

Firmware Engineers

- Degree in Electronic Engineering
- Knowledge in embedded controllers based on 8051 and/or 6805 using assembly and C language
- Experience in smart card an advantage

Software Engineer

- Degree in Computer Science
- Experience in developing device drivers in Windows environment
- Experience in solid applications development
- Hands-on experience on Visual C++, Visual Basic and Delphi.
- Experience in internet security/smart card an advantage

*Interested persons please send email to **acsmla@v-link.net** or call **6385732**.*

BOOSTWORKS™

Boostworks Inc., a San Francisco-based company known worldwide for its creative, high quality, award-winning Web acceleration solutions is setting up its regional office in the Philippines and is inviting skilled personnel for the following positions:

Channel Sales Leader

- ☐ Graduate of any 4-year business course.
- ☐ With at least 5 years experience in indirect sales/channel sales management in Asia-Pacific Region.
- ☐ With proven track record in selling IT software and solutions.
- ☐ With excellent presentation and writing skills.
- ☐ With experience in leading complex sales campaigns of technology products involving senior executive buying committees.
- ☐ A self-starter who should be able to work independently in a small growing environment and eventually should be able to manage a team of salespeople.
- ☐ Any Asian language a plus.

Sales Engineer

- ☐ Degree in Engineering.
- ☐ With at least three years experience in the following areas: knowledge of TCP/IP protocols stacks, including lower app layers; experience with network traffic, packet optimization, technical knowledge of Internet/Web communication and data format protocols: http, https, xml, html, jpeg, gif, etc.; technical knowledge of network infrastructure and deploying web-based applications across intranets/extranets/Internet; experience with software installation and general administration of Windows, NT, and Unix (Solaris) operating systems; experience in the telecommunications, ISP or ASP industry; and experience with Web application and Internet performance monitoring tools.
- ☐ With excellent communication and written skills.
- ☐ With experience interfacing with customers at consultative levels.

Interested applicants may send an electronic version of their resumés at bpadua@boostworks.com (please respond by email only).

Successful candidates will be offered superior benefits, competitive compensation package and will have opportunities for professional growth, overseas training, regular overseas trips and more...

DRIVE SYSTEMS, INC.

WANTED

Sales Engineer

Qualification :

- Male / Female
- Electrical Engineering Graduate
- Aggressive & Hard Working
- Knowledge in Electrical Equipment & Machinery
- At least 3 years experience in Sales & Marketing
- High salary (at least 5 digit salary) plus commission
- Good moral character

Apply In Person at:

Km. 24 Dantrade Compound Ortigas Ave.
Extension, Taytay, Rizal
Tel. No. : 660-50-23 to 25
Contact person ; Nelson Jepsane

SINGAPORE HUMAN Resource Consultants Pte Ltd
ACCREDITATION NO. 55031

A large telecommunication company based in SINGAPORE is aggressively seeking dynamic individuals to add value to its company's mission and activities "providing quality service."

Open position:

CUSTOMER SERVICE OFFICERS

Candidates should be a degree holder, Male/Female, pleasing personality, fluent in English language, computer literate and with a minimum 2 years experience in telecommunication industry.

Successful candidates will be offered a 2-year contract - renewable, attractive salary package, life insurance, performance-based bonus, extensive trainings and career advancement.

Interested applicants may apply personally with their resumé, diploma, T/R, Employment certificates. Passport and other pertinent documents (all must be prepared in A4 sizes bondpaper) starting **5 February 2001**, to:

IDEAS SERVICES & DEVELOPMENT CO., INC.
12 Kasing-kasing St., corner K 9th St., East Kamias, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 4391769, 4334494

This ad is allowed under MC-2
MAG-INGAT SA ILLEGAL RECRUITER

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

ACCOUNTANT

The candidate will report directly to the vice-president. He/She will be required to prepare reports vital to management decisions. The salary we offer is highly competitive and negotiable depending upon the qualification of the candidate.

The candidate must have the following:

- ☞ Passed the CPA licensure exams
- ☞ knowledge in financial statement preparation and analysis
- ☞ at least 1 year work experience as head of the accounting department
- ☞ computer literacy
- ☞ good command of written and oral communication skills

Contact persons: Des or Aurora
MPCO Box 1646, 1256 Makati City
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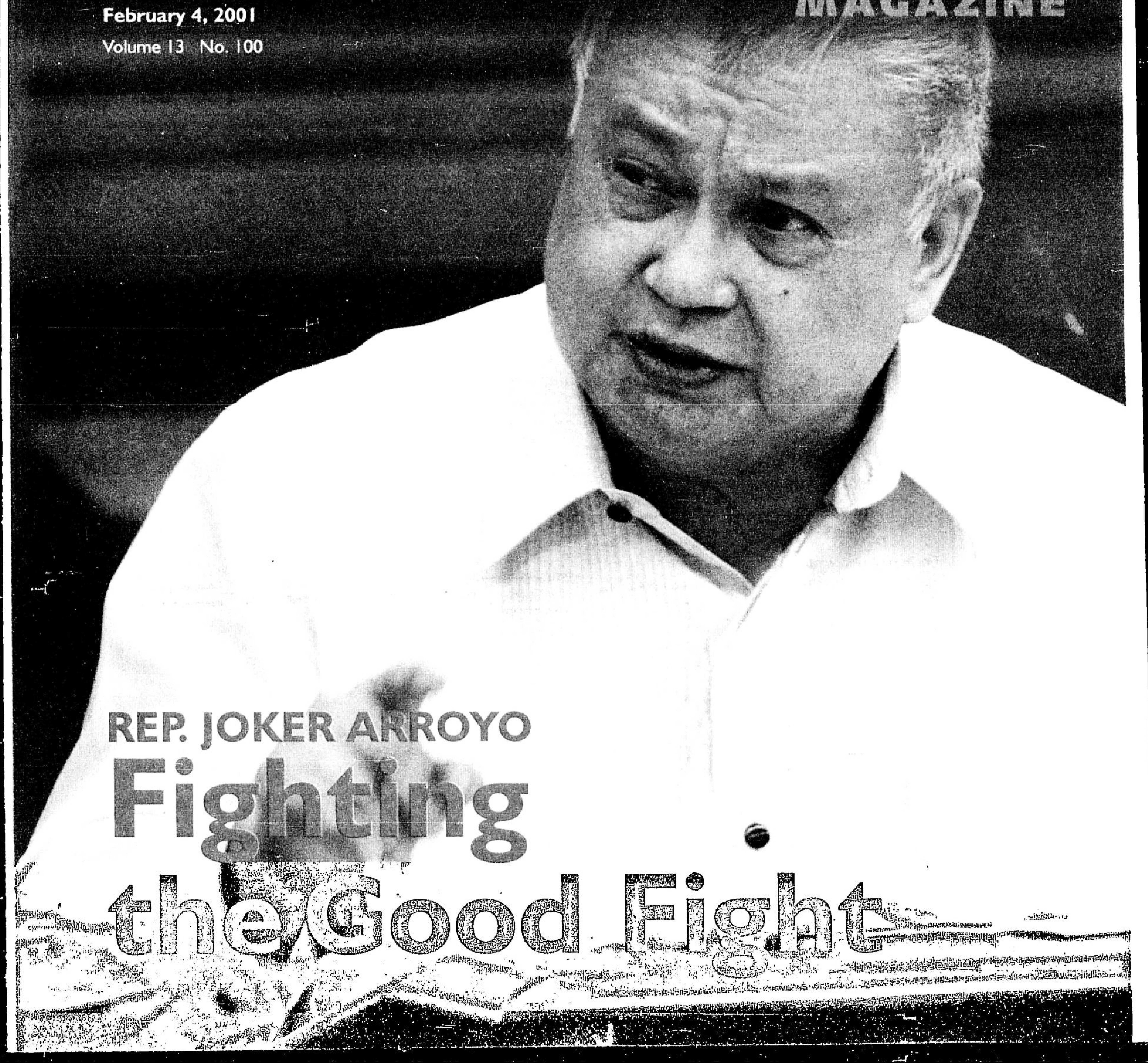
SUNDAY
INQUIRER
MAGAZINE
February 4, 2001
Volume 13 No. 100

GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE



REP. JOKER ARROYO

Fighting the Good Fight

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JAMMING for the Dam

Musicians band together to save the La Mesa Watershed

The E-heads lend a hand to save the watershed

Some of the Philippines' top musical talents gather to fight for one of the country's most important resources when Bantay Kalikasan and Studio 23 stages "La Mesa Jam," a fund-raising and awareness-raising concert to be held on Feb. 10 at the ULTRA track-and-field oval at 7:30 p.m. for the benefit of the Save the La Mesa Watershed project.

"Bantay Kalikasan needs the youth to get involved in the environment," says ABS-CBN Foundation managing director Gina Lopez. "The La Mesa Jam is an exciting opportunity for everyone to band together towards protecting our air, our water and our future." She notes that the.watershed is "the lungs of the city," providing water for some 12 million Metro Manilans. "It is half gone," she warns. "We need to bring it back to life."

The Save the La Mesa Watershed aims to reforest the last remaining forest of its kind within Metro Manila, and rallying to its cause for the La Mesa Jam are the Eraserheads, Rivermaya, Cynthia Alexander, the Brownbeat All-Stars, Color It Red, Pinikpikan, Mojofly, Chill, the Pin-Up Girls, and Wolfgang. There's even an inter-school band competition right before the Jam itself that features bands from 30 schools and a top prize of P10,000. In addition, the Jam will be aired on Studio 23 and webcast on www.pinoycentral.com. "Please come, have fun, raise your consciousness, join hands in supporting this very noble cause," Lopez exhorts. Tickets are available at P100 each all Ticket Net outlets and the Bantay Kalikasan office at the AFI Building. For details, call 415-2227.

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The Cover Image This Joker was all business at the impeachment trial. Through it all, Rep. Joker Arroyo has always been unafraid to fight for what he believes in
Cover photograph by Jess Yuson

Sunday Inquirer Magazine February 4, 2001
Vol. 13 No. 100 ISSN 0116 - 232X

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THE SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE holds office at Chino Roces Ave. (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City, with telephone number 897-8808. locals 317 and 318. Mailing address: PO Box 2050, 1099 Manila, Philippines. E-mail: sim@inquirer.com.ph

Cover Story
by Fe B. Zamora

Years from now, he will be remembered as the most fearless and impassioned prosecutor at the impeachment trial of Joseph Estrada. Today, poised to run for public office, Joker Arroyo looks back on the trial of the century

The Joker Who Was the Ace

SOMEWHERE AMONG THE THRONG THAT RUSHED TO EDSA FOR THE SECOND TIME IN NEARLY 15 YEARS WAS SOME LADY, WE PRESUME, WITH A PLACARD WITH THIS IMPLORING MESSAGE: "JOKER, WILL YOU MARRY ME?"

The object of this unabashed Edsa-esque declaration of affection was reportedly amused when told of the proposal. He couldn't have seen it; unlike the many political figures eager to turn *balimbing* as soon as the tides turned, Joker didn't even bother to climb onto the already overcrowded stage at the Edsa shrine (although we suspect that if he did show up, he would have been physically hoisted right up there). Many will argue that Joker Arroyo deserved to be on that stage, more than at least half of the characters who were basking in the limelight. But typical of him, he took the proposal as a joke. "Who knows," he chortles, "Ernie Maceda is out there!"

The man desired by the placard-holder is 74 years old and has thinning white hair that contrasts with his boyish mien. He has a state of mind that swings from cynical to overly optimistic. He also holds the record as the only congressman who has no bodyguards, no secretary and no media coordinators.

> *"We wanted to convict the president," Joker states. "That was our game plan"*

You call him up at his home, and chances are he's the one who lifts the receiver. Sometimes, it's his driver who doubles as his secretary. Joker makes his own appointments, carries his own leather attaché case, keeps his own schedule. He also has the habit of mix-matching formal and casual wear, such as topping his blue denims with a white *barong tagalog*.

He has a good memory for names, but not of faces, it would seem. He is known to take to task reporters who ask stupid questions, a trait he shares with a few public figures, among them former Comelec Chairman Atty. Haydee Yorac, former Interior and Local Government Secretary Rafael Alunan and former President Fidel V. Ramos.

Much is already known about Joker the human rights lawyer and freedom fighter of the Marcos years, former political prisoner and co-founder of the associations of fighting lawyers Mabini and Flag, consequent executive secretary of Cory Aquino and congressman of Makati. He is married to Atty. Fely Aquino-Arroyo and has three daughters, but he is widely known for not talking much about his private life.

The congressman as Jedi Knight

Edwin Bacasmas

His parents must have had a keen sense of humor because they called their son Joker, the name by which he is registered in the Roll of Attorneys of the Supreme Court. But a joker Joker is not to the millions of Filipinos who were glued to the television daily (2 p.m.-8 p.m., Monday to Friday) from December 7, 2000 to January 16, 2001 as they followed the real-life impeachment court drama of former President Joseph Estrada. To many of them, Joker was Luke Skywalker locked in fierce battle with Darth Vader, also known as Jose Velarde.

On his first day in the impeachment court, Joker was accompanied to the Senate by his wife Fely. She sat among the spectators and fidgeted while the protagonists argued over whether to use Pilipino or English. She wonders how Joker would have fared if they insisted on using Pilipino.

When last seen on TV as a member of the government prosecution panel, Joker was pleading fervently with the senator judges to agree to open an envelope which contained documents vital to the case against Erap. He also engaged Senator Francisco Tatad in a snappy exchange of diatribes, all in crisp English.

"The prosecution has been labeled meek in a talk show," he declaimed passionately when the air-con system suddenly went off. "We don't have a Kenneth Starr," he continued with his pleading, but the contents of the envelope will prove that "the President has bastardized and prostituted the banking system. How did he get P3 billion there? How do you explain the fact that in another bank Miss Laarni Enriquez had savings of P 3 million in 1998, which ballooned to P63 million, then P239 million in the year 2000?" Without the hum of the cooling system, the trial court had turned so painfully quiet, you could hear a pin drop.

His pleadings fell on deaf ears. In a matter of minutes, 11 senators voted not to open the envelope, triggering a national outrage that brought the people once more to Edsa. Four days later, a new president was installed.

But you don't expect Joker to claim credit for single-handedly facing the defense panel backed by 11 senators that day. "My performance has been received well, but I lament how my colleagues have been treated and vilified," he says. "We all worked hard. It was teamwork between public and private prosecutors.

"If you are going to a write a story about the prosecution," he pleads in vintage Joker, "in fairness to all, please include the *hirap*, the hardship that the prosecution had to go through. It's not just the lack of time to but the fact that we started from nothing, from zero. Remember, the ledger was with Yolanda Ricaforte."

The prosecution panel was composed of a congressmen-lawyers elected by their colleagues in the Lower House, precisely for the impeachment trial. The team was led by Chief Prosecutor Rep. Feliciano Belmonte with Rep. Sergio Apostol, Rep. Raul Gonzales,

Jess Yuson

The fan-favorite prosecutor in a trademark moment of frustration

Rep. Wigberto Tanada and Joker as lead counsels for each of the four specific charges. They were backed by a host of congressmen lawyers and private law practitioners. Behind the scenes were about a dozen volunteer lawyers who did the research. Without them, Joker maintains it would have been impossible to launch a legal battle against the former president.

"I could not speak there with such conviction unless I had the goods behind me. It's easy to bluff but you will be discovered," he says, citing the example of the Delia Rajas trick pulled by the lawyers Sigfrid and Raymond Fortun, which boomeranged on the defense.

"A lawyer is just as good as the case he handles," Joker continues. "Lawyers cannot make a good case out of a bad one." Each day of the trial was a test of strength and tenacity for the prosecution team. "Everyone had sleepless nights. The private prosecutors, the complainants, the NGOs, the cause-oriented groups, the trade unions. We cannot overlook their contribution. We can never thank them enough.

"We were all dead tired at the end of the day. We had to be there around lunchtime to prepare for the 2 p.m. trial. We'd go home very late. Sometimes I'd wake up at dawn to pee and I'd start thinking of the case, *hindi na ako makatulog*" (I couldn't sleep anymore).

He said the impeachment courtroom drama that was beamed live to Filipinos everywhere in the Philippines showed just a fraction of the actual court work. "From the start, we made a statement that a legal battle is 80-90 percent preparation, and 10-20 percent court trial," he says.

For this trial, Joker says the preparation was tough, especially in the area of gathering evidence. Convincing potential witnesses to come out was another area of concern.

"It was very laborious, very tedious. *Katakot-takot na trabaho*" (daunting work), he says. "The idea was to gather massive evidence so that we could present it, and in the end, we could convict the president. The idea was to remove Erap by presenting all these evidence, massive, very strong and so damaging that it would be embarrassing for the senators, except for three or four, not to convict Erap.

"We wanted to convict the president," he states. "That was our game plan."

From Day One, Joker says, every move of the prosecution was already geared towards that direction. Hard work, however, was not enough. Joker believes Divine Guidance was with them every step of the way.

"We are not godly people, but we noticed that evidence and witnesses were coming our way," he confides. "When we ran out of evidence, something came from out of the blue. One explosive evidence after another. And all admitted as evidence. And we were clean. Four of the defense panel members were tagged for unprofessional conduct, but we were clean. *Sabi namin, aba, hindi na abilidad ito* (this is not just ability). Divine intervention *talaga!* Who would ever have thought we could gather evidence *na pati si Erap mamimilipit*" (that would have even Erap squirming in his seat)?

He cites as example the testimony of the Equitable PCIBank branch managers. "We didn't know them from Adam. We didn't have previous relations with them. We made a little appeal, a little *cariño* (persuasion). *Maraming pakiusap* (lots of pleading). Remember, their loyalty was to the bank. They wanted to protect the institution," he says.

Like pieces of a jigsaw puzzle, the testimonies of the bank managers presented a picture of Yolanda Ricaforte as a scheming money launderer. Joker says witnesses Emma Lim and Menchu Ichon also passed the test with flying colors.

"And there is still the untold story of Clarissa Ocampo. *Matagal na pakikiusap yan* with the bank president George Go, because the bank had to cooperate. And Clarissa's testimony of the P500 million trust account is only one third of the story," Joker says.

Jose Velarde, or Joseph Estrada, had opened three accounts — savings, checking and trust account, with Equitable-PCI Bank. Clarissa confirmed that Erap, using the name Jose Velarde, actually opened the trust account. But the details of the savings account would have been bolstered by the documents contained in the controversial second envelope.

"I wanted the envelope, which was central to the whole thing, opened, because I wanted the truth out. Little did I know that it would spark the disgust and outrage of the people," he says.

From the Ilocos Sur Gov. Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson's xeroxed "*listahan*" to the controversial envelope which also contains another list of checks deposited in the account of Jose Velarde – indeed, the prosecution had gone a long way.

"But the envelope contains documents which did not require testimonies," Joker adds. "Erap used Jaime Dichaves to own up the account so Dichaves would have to testify, and that would give him an excuse not to appear in court anymore. But the documents in the second envelope would have forced Erap to testify.

"Look where the country is now. We lost the vote on Tuesday, Erap was ousted on Saturday. This is truly divine intervention," he marvels. "We won even as we failed."

The impeachment court has ceased to exist. "There is no impeached president to try. The objective was to convict the president and remove him from office. He has been removed by People Power, the purpose has been achieved."

People power, explains Joker, is simply the exercise of the people of their sovereign right. "The Constitution says sovereignty resides in the people and all governmental authorities reside with them. And this is exactly what People Power is – it's the people exercising their sovereign right. And so the president was deposed with or without his letter of resignation."

As of this writing, it's been barely a week since Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's oath-taking as the 14th president of the Republic of the Philippines. Joker laughs at Erap's claim that he just went on a leave of absence and is temporarily staying in his house in Polk St., Greenhills.

"He is a lonely man, a lonely former president who has not been given correct legal advice. The fact of the matter is that he is a deposed president who has been succeeded by the vice-president," Joker explains.

He appeals to politicians to give the new president a free hand in forming her cabinet. He also sees a return of normalcy in governance soon. "Two weeks more and pretty soon everybody will be campaigning," he chortles again. Chances are that Joker will also be in the hustings as he appeals his case – as a senatorial candidate before the Filipino people. And chances are, come voting time, the people who took down a president will remember the white-haired, impassioned prosecutor who fought a good fight, even when the battle already seemed lost.

Theater Tales

by Cora Llamas

Meet the Filipino theater workhorses who have inherited the formidable job of running the stage extravaganza "Miss Saigon" from behind the curtains

Taking the Reins

YOU'D THINK THAT AFTER NEW YORK-BASED DIRECTOR PETER LAWRENCE AND THE REST OF "MISS SAIGON" MANILA'S ORIGINAL CREATIVE TEAM HAD GONE, THEIR MANILA COUNTERPARTS COULD TAKE A BREATHER.

Not quite. For production administrator Liza Camus, technical director Gerry Fernandez, and company manager Marga Garcia, the real challenge has just begun. Everything else the past year – the intensive rehearsals, the sunrise-to-sunset coordination over millions of details, a crash-course in multi-racial cultural immersion – was just preparation for this one moment when they would be taking the reins.

> *"It's the challenge of maintaining the quality of the show, and of opening night standards, eight times a week"*

True, one rave review after another has greeted the first series of performances, the heretofore-unseen technological marvels delivered on their promise, and tickets (at least for the first three months) sold out quickly, like Zagu drinks on a killer summer day.

It's these guys' job to see to it that things stay that way – at least as far as the first two are concerned.

"In a long-running show like this," Camus points out, "attention can slack. After a while, in a dance number that has been done several times, you suddenly notice that the flags don't stand as straight. Or one cast member exited at the wrong point. The regular audience may not notice this, but we do. In the weekly pick-up rehearsals, the director passes out notes about these little details."

Fondly called "The Boss" by the 400-strong cast and crew, the slight but spirited lady oversees the whole depth and breadth of the production. Backing her up are Fernandez who, along with his 36-man technical crew, sees to it that the nuts and bolts, from sounds to lights work perfectly; and Garcia, who's a mother hen "with balls" to the performers and their support team, like the wardrobe people.

Camus calls it "the challenge of maintaining the quality of the show, and of opening night standards, eight times a week."

The grandness of the production, along with its international reputation, is daunting, to say the least. Even by Broadway standards, "Miss Saigon" is considered a Cecil B. De Mille epic in terms of scale with its "cast of thousands" caught in the Vietnam War, tons of props, 700 costumes, 46 scene changes in three hours and one of the highest numbers of light /sound cues and scenery changes done on the modern stage in recent history.

The fluidity of movement onstage that turns a wall into a three-storey Embassy or makes a helicopter fly from its roof pales beside the rush of activity backstage. While Kim is steeling herself to shoot Thuy in front of the audience, behind the curtain massive sets and their visual and sound effects, all run by computer, are being mobilized to bring in a giant golden statue, a marching battalion of soldiers, and a haunting sunset.

Fernandez's team moves silently and precisely, like wired SWAT elements communicating in the dark with their radios and flashlights. Garcia's own mini-army of costume dressers are always on stand-by alert, running after a quickly disrobing actor, turning Kim from a rosy bride into a filthy fugitive, or transforming green-fatigued American soldiers into crass tourists.

One wrong cue could foul up the computer programming. One too-slow costume mistress can reduce an outfit's realism into the ridiculous. The show runs like clockwork; every move has to be precise.

That's why the high-tech automatons are necessary. "Six months for any cast and crew are tough," says Fernandez, who has done the technicals for many a big-budget Filipino musicale like

The "Morning of the Dragon" scene from "Miss Saigon": The show runs like clockwork

1975
1978
30 4 LS 1975

Lyn Rillon

"Rama at Sita." "In the Philippines, we've never gone beyond three months. In our productions, we have human beings pulling and pushing things backstage. But these human beings tend to be different on a daily basis. Robotics make the whole thing efficient. It memorizes what the human crew members are supposed to have done and shifts the sets that way."

Performances also have to be up to par at all times. The resident director and the musical conductor have this uncanny ability to spot it when an actor is losing his edge. A dash across the stage that looks just a little bit slow, or a voice that tends to wander off a note — pick-up rehearsals are meant to tighten these loose threads. They also bring together major players who are acting for the first time, like Cez Campos, Lea Salonga's alternate for Kim who is now taking the lead, and Scott Ansen, the new Chris.

Fernandez sighs a little wryly, "The joke was that we had to run before we learned how to walk. It was our greatest challenge. Ironically, the foreign team had more confidence in us than we had in ourselves."

The education formally started at the start of the year. After Mackintosh gave the project his green light, tons of e-mail literally started pouring into the computers of Camus, Fernandez, and Garcia: blueprints, stage designs, diagrams of set pieces, production requirements, contracts of the foreign actors, flight schedules and itineraries of the expatriates.

Dennis

Keeping "Saigon's" ride smooth: (L-R) Gerry Fernandez, Liza Camus and Marga Garcia

Garcia remembers one hectic day when she had to "fly in 25 foreigners arriving in one day at different times from 7 a.m. to 12 midnight. We had to make sure that the tickets from Manila arrived on time, that our guests were on the plane, and that they were checked into their hotels safely."

For all three, a 12-hour schedule is the norm (pre-production called for 14-hour workdays). In an average 8 a.m.-11 p.m. workday, they come in earlier than everyone else, and go home later than everyone else. Camus rented a condo on Roxas Boulevard to avoid the travel time from her Alabang home. Garcia stays in at a hotel occasionally. Family allows Fernandez to endure the long ride to and from his Marcos Highway home. "Even then, his kids have grown without his noticing them," Camus kids her colleague.

Understandably, the Monday days off, which have no scheduled performances, are considered "sacred." Every other day is fair game.

Camus describes the drill she gave her assistants during the interviews: "Are you willing to work six days a week including Christmas, New Year, holidays, and storms?"

"Saigon" Manila had performances on those dates. It also set in a record in pushing through in the middle of a November storm that flooded Manila and cut off its electric power for a day. As people were wading through streets or lighting candles in their homes, cast and crew got text messages from the office: *"Bumagyo man, tuloy ang* show."

Culture was another learning curve. "Saigon" Manila had Americans, Australians, Swedes, a Hungarian, and Filipinos interacting with each other. While the Pinoys had to adjust to the discipline and punctuality Broadway-style, the foreigners had to cope with famous Filipino peculiarities. One side focused on process and goals, the other thrived on the personal and the *"pakikisama."*

"Because they're co-efficient, they have five people finish a job in five days. Here, because labor is cheap, it's more cost-efficient to put 15 people and finish it in two days even without sleep," Camus gives an example.

Fernandez backs it up. "It's also because we enjoy working with people and we like *paspasan na trabaho."*

"The Americans don't go beyond eight hours," Camus rejoins. They wanted us to work six days, eight hours a day, every week. We prefer five days *kahit* 12 hours just to have Saturdays and Sundays off. We don't care about overtime."

The foreigners also found themselves dealing with our famous *"chika"* factor. They come in at 10 a.m. sharp, work through straight, and have their bags packed and ready by 6 p.m. Pinoys go through this ritual of greeting everyone on board when they arrive and depart; at 6 p.m., they're just warming up.

The foreign creative team relied on their Pinoy colleagues to deal with the realities of Manila life. Like getting generators to back up the show in cases of power failure or electrical fluctuation. Or re-evaluating the plausibility of an 8 a.m.-6 p.m. call time for carpenters who live in Fairview.

"They were a high-tech-oriented people who had so much respect for culture. Their environment allows so much learning," Fernandez says. "If something goes wrong, they ask: 'How are we gonna deal with this?' and not 'Who's to blame?' The whole thing becomes an exercise in deduction and proactivity."

The same could be said of the Filipino team's entry into this theatrical marathon. When first asked to join the production, Camus, Garcia and Fernandez had the same question: "Is it possible? Can it be done?" As the weeks of pre-production rolled, this changed to: "Can we do it?"

Now, looking at all that happened, they know now – as they suspected then – that it was a challenge that they could not possibly have turned down.

Artwatch
by Nikko L. Dizon

Seven young artists are behind what has become one of the hippest café-galleries and hang-outs in town, as well as a venue for more contemporary installation art

photographs by Joan Bondoc

Sky High

BSM night: A "multi-disciplinary" hangout

IF YOU WANT TO DROP BY BIG SKY MIND, THE GALLERY/CAFÉ WHERE MANY YOUNG ARTISTS HANG OUT THESE DAYS, JUST LOOK FOR A TV AND ELECTRONICS REPAIR SHOP CALLED SUNSHINE. BIG SKY MIND, OR BSM, IS RIGHT BESIDE IT. THE STORE ALONG THE TREE-LINED DOÑA JUANA RODRIGUEZ RD. IN NEW MANILA HAS A PROMINENT GREEN AND WHITE SIGNAGE THAT MAKES UP FOR BSM'S LACK OF ONE. AND THEN THERE'S THE EVER-EFFECTIVE AND RELIABLE PROMOTIONAL TOOL CALLED "WORD OF MOUTH."

More than anything, Big Sky Mind hopes to encourage collaborations and crossovers among local artists

BSM opened in October 1999, a venture that was started "on impulse" by seven young artists: Ringo Bunoan, Katya Guerrero, Cindy Malong, Riza Manalo, Pat Mulles, Bong Ocampo and Jeff Galindez. Big Sky Mind got its name from Carole Tonkinson's anthology of essays, poems and letters by Beat writers such as Jack Kerouac and Allen Ginsberg that manifest concepts of Buddhism.

"There are a lot of commercial galleries but most of them are still very painting- and sculpture-oriented," says Katya, who shares the responsibility with Ringo as gallery director. "Not that we are breaking away. We just want to provide a venue for certain types of works such as installations that capture art in a more realistic everyday scenario." Indeed, BSM features works that are quite unconventional, from a layman's point of view. Ever been in a room where two walls are filled with clocks all set at different times, with a bed suspended in the middle, and at the back of the room, a bonfire is lit by a 16-inch TV set showing a house on fire? All these and the subdued lighting of the space create that eerie atmosphere that could make you feel lost and disoriented. Such was the collaborative work of ASEAN Art Awards 2000 grand prizewinner Nona Garcia and Gary Pastrana, shown last December at BSM. One could interpret it in many different ways, but according to Nona and Gary, recounts Ringo, their work was about that fear that grips you when you suddenly wake up at dawn and you're not sure what time it is or where you are.

More than anything, Big Sky Mind hopes to encourage collaborations and crossovers among local artists. "We gather everybody, not just to give them a place where they could hang out together but to be able to work on projects together as well," Katya explains. Ringo, an Art History graduate from the UP College of Fine Arts, laments that small as the art community is, it is "too polarized." This, she says, is what BSM is trying to transcend by being multi-disciplinary. Aside from organizing an average of 10 shows a year, BSM also regularly holds film showings, performances and jam sessions, where musicians can just come and play their music. "Sometimes it's good, sometimes it's not so good. It doesn't really matter," shrugs Ringo. BSM has a consistent, regular crowd, she adds, composed of visual artists, musicians, writers and people from the nearby Mowelfund, who hang out in the place almost every night. The gallery/café opens at 7pm and people can stay around until 5 the next morning. The café, of which Cindy is in charge, is definitely a big come-on. And there's quite a selection of meals and sandwiches. "The atmosphere here is very casual and because a lot of people know each other,

To page 15

Lying down on the mind job: Katya Guerrero and Ringo Bonoan

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Seen On TV

by Pinky C. Serafica
Women's Feature Service
photographs by Eddie Boy Escudero

The new and updated feminist TV program "XYZ, Young Women's TV" is conceptualized, produced and hosted by fearless females who are targeting a young adult market – and making a difference in "manstream" media.

Brave New Show

"BRAVE" IS HOW KAREN KUNAWICZ, WRITER, FORMER COLUMNIST AND ONE OF THE PROGRAM'S HOSTS, DESCRIBES "XYZ, YOUNG WOMEN'S TV." "BRAVE" IS APT FOR A FEMINIST SHOW AIRED AT PRIMETIME OVER WHAT ACTIVIST KAMLA BRASIN CALLS "MANSTREAM" MEDIA – A COMMERCIALLY-CONTROLLED, PROFIT-DRIVEN MEDIUM THAT OFTEN DEMEANS WOMEN. AND YES, BRAVE, FOR A WOMEN'S NGO TO PRODUCE SEGMENTS THAT TACKLE SEX AND SEXUALITY SANS THE SELLING MIX OF MAKE-UP, DIET AND FASHION.

The program's staying power lies in the strength of its mothers and sisters, and its friends who e-mail and write letters affirming the program's objectives and requesting for topics and themes and people

"Any pressure from your Mom or your family for you to do something more feminine?" Karen-in-action asks Jasmin Strachan, taekwondo Olympian, who just got back from the Sydney competitions. "Oh no, my mom even watched Jackie Chan movies with me!" retorts Jasmin, 22, part of the young adult population (16-32 years old) targeted by "XYZ." And the witty, confident blackbelter is among the young women whose grit, spirit and message are broadcasted to rise over all those gyrating and impossibly thin bodies commonly seen on the small screen.

With Jasmin's advice to young women to "Please do get into sports, it's not true that taekwondo is only for men," editor/production assistant (PA) Florence Ballesteros and Karen wrap up the "X-Women" segment. Their lean "backpack" team, as they call it, is made up of the assigned host, a PA, cameraman Peter Carlos and lightsman Jun Bundoc.

"We cover and write the stories ourselves," Karen says of her task, and that of the other hosts, broadcast-journalist and peace activist Risa Hontiveros-Baraquel and magazine editor Apol Lejano. Every weekly episode starts with a brainstorming session that involves all the women that make up "XYZ"—the hosts, director Ida Vargas, Women's Media Circle Director Anna Leah Sarabia, Executive Producer Sinag de Leon-Amado, segment producers, editors and PAs.

Girl power on air: "XYZ" hosts (L-R) Risa Hontiveros-Baraquel, Apol Lejano and Karen Kunawicz

"XYZ, Young Women's TV" was mothered and sistered by the Women's Media Circle (WMC) since 1996. It has taken on the life and soul of young adults, and how! At times flip and light-hearted, sometimes blushing and shy, often adventurous and honest, tentatively testing the waters and pushing boundaries, "XYZ" is a young woman saying to her friends that in difficult and fun times, in whatever way: "I respect myself, I protect myself, I trust myself."

That mantra may just be what a young person needs in this last half of the century where they are regarded in the extremes – malleable and vulnerable on one hand, yet also consumers and decision makers with the capacity to influence sales and selling trends on the other. And since they form 20 % of the Philippines' population, it is no surprise that media has taken on the role of babysitter and godparent.

According to a survey conducted in 1992 by trends-MBL for McCann-Erickson Philippines, young Metro Manilas (12-21 years old) sit through over 30 hours of broadcast media weekly. The McCann-Erickson survey identified media as a "surrogate parent" or young people's "touchstones and sources of authority regarding what is right, what is wrong, what is important." Even the Secretary of Education in 1993 concurred that "60 percent of learning among the youth occurs outside of school, mainly through the media."

This, then, is the field WMC – a group of professionals in radio, television and print – chose to engage in. Dedicated to the empowerment of women through the communications media and the arts since 1985, WMC knows this dictum all too well: no voice, no choice, no power.

WMC Director Anna Leah Sarabia thought of giving young viewers an alternative program in the medium most known and accessible to them. After all, she writes in the book "Women's Experiences in Media," "the fact remains that no matter how many female voices you hear on the radio and how many female faces you think there are peering out of the TV screen, the broadcast media industry is still 'Fort Macho'."

The debut of "XYZ, Young Women's TV" over the government Channel 4 was on a Sunday afternoon in May 1996. According to Sinag de Leon-Amado, executive producer, for a medium-sized NGO, the show required a whole lot of work and a whole lot of money. " With a very small crew, we were producing six to seven segments running for five minutes each week. We were paying for airtime and studio rental since we did not have the equipment yet, and this amounted to an average of P57,000 a week."

And there was society to contend with, or more accurately, the guardians of its morals. "XYZ" guested Dr. Susan Pineda-Mercado in one episode of its banner segment, "Bodytalk," which featured themes on reproductive health and sexuality.

Sinag relates "XYZ"'s first brush with the Movie and Television Review and Classifications Board (MTRCB). "Of course (Dr. Pineda) had to say *'regla,'* because she was talking about public health and the lack of information that schools provide young women regarding their sexuality." For translating menstruation into the Tagalog *"regla,"* Sinag says, "we got the label 'parental guidance'."

Even clothes worn during the show was subject to scrutiny. MTV Asia's Lee Laureano was featured in the segment "X-Women" as a role model looked up to by the hip and the young. But it was not her values and accomplishments as a young woman that caught the attention of MTRCB.

Karen recalls, "We were both wearing a similar black spaghetti-strapped blouse. But all they noticed was her cleavage!" Rather than be dampened by the "Rated PG" label, "XYZ" Director Ida Vargas felt it was a clear acknowledgment of the program's existence and impact. "For if we are bending the rules, pushing the borders and breaking barriers where women are concerned, we believe we are successful."

In October 1999, negotiations with the ABS-CBN News Channel (ANC) prospered and "XYZ" once again traipsed on air the next month. They are now seen at 5-6 p.m. every Sunday on Channel 21 via Sky and Sun Cable. Though seen in Japan, Guam, and some parts of the US Mainland, the change meant reestablishing their viewership base, and reinvigorating the format into fast-paced, lightly handled, informative and provocative segments.

The Valentines Day 2000 episode, for instance, did not stop at delving into the anatomy of love but went on to say, "Hey sister, trust your heart, trust your mind but know the responsibilities of love and safe sex." The latter was particularly given focus in the "Bodytalk" segment where comic host Apol Lejano was in her element emceeing the hilarious "Condom Quiz." Never in primetime TV has it actually been done, but a young "contestant" held a bottle while another so naturally demonstrated how a condom is placed, and made to work as it should. Apol's candid and provocative handling made the young audience, even the older ones, sit up, maybe blush and giggle a little but with their interest piqued, they listened.

In another episode on environmentalism which featured the segment "Talkback," host Risa Hontiveros-Baraquel summed up what the program is essentially there for. "All life is precious, no matter how small. Respect the gift of life, respect the gift of diversity."

These, after all, are the buzzwords of the kind of media that "XYZ" and the Women's Media Circle espouse. Sinag and the rest of the group call it "feminist media," where audiences are not just "receivers of information. This is media that educates, inspires and empowers."

That inspiration has gone on to Kuala Lumpur, where Aids activist Marina Mahathir, upon seeing taped episodes of "XYZ" and hearing its proponents speak, decided to mother and produce "XYZ"'s sister show, "3R" (*"Tiga* R" in Bahasa Malaysia). Standing for Respect, Relax and Respond, this half-hour magazine program, enthuses Marina, is in Malay and English "with three hosts (young women) and we have different segments talking about health, safety, leisure, profiles, IT, etc."

The program's staying power lies in the strength of its mothers and sisters, and its friends who e-mail and write letters affirming the program's objectives and requesting for topics and themes and people. Anna Leah celebrates this as a process towards education and empowerment, "When you're empowered, you'll feel it. When you make a choice, you're confident because you know it's correct."

"XYZ" is brave. And as feminist poet Grace Monte de Ramos writes, the brave always return.

XYZ's hosts strive to empower women through the show's pioneering spirit

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"XYZone" is also heard over Angel Radyo DZAR (1026 khz) every Saturday at 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. with columnist Rina Jimenez-David dispensing feminist views on the AM airwaves. Once a month, "XYZine" may be read in Mr. and Ms. magazine.

Special Series

by Aida Sevilla Mendoza

Goco's appeal afforded the occasion for the SC to give guidelines and thereby establish a clear road map for the courts and prosecuting attorneys to follow on the issue of psychological incapacity in annulment cases

A Case of Opposing and Conflicting Personalities

(Conclusion)

SOLICITOR GENERAL RAUL I. GOCO QUESTIONED THE TRIAL COURT'S FINDING THAT THE MARRIAGE OF OSCAR PLARASO AND ESTELITA SEBIT PLARASO BROKE UP BECAUSE THEY HAD "OPPOSING AND CONFLICTING PERSONALITIES." THIS CANNOT BE A BASIS FOR DECLARING THE MARRIAGE NULL, GOCO ARGUED, SINCE THE LAW REQUIRES THE EXISTENCE OF PSYCHOLOGICAL INCAPACITY TO PERFORM MARITAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES. HAVING TAKEN THEIR MARRIAGE VOWS, ESTELITA AND OSCAR ARE EXPECTED TO STRIVE TO KEEP THE MARRIAGE INTACT DESPITE PROBLEMS OF "OPPOSING AND CONFLICTING PERSONALITIES" – PROBLEMS THAT ARE NOT INSURMOUNTABLE, GOCO SAID.

> *"The nullification of marriage should not be allowed on flimsy and frivolous grounds that do not constitute psychological incapacity"*

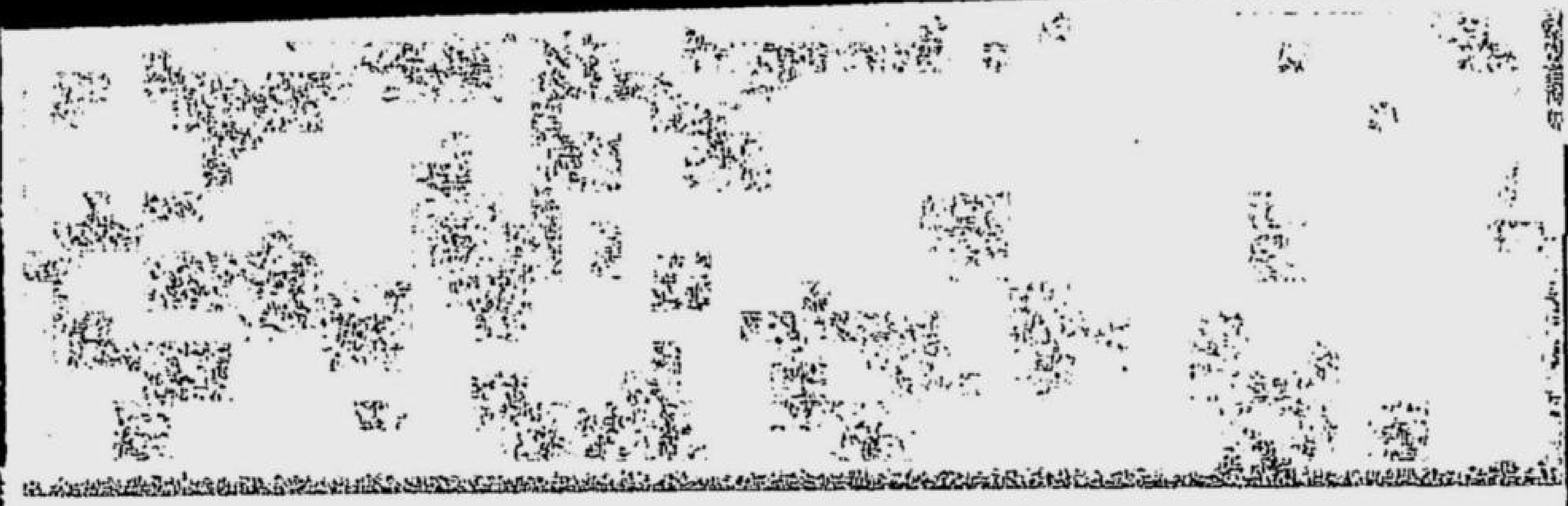
He noted the psychiatrist witness's finding that Oscar was not suffering from any psychiatric disorder and that the problem of the spouses was one of incompatibility, not psychological incapacity. In fact, the psychiatrist said that while Oscar and Estelita may not be compatible, they are capable of establishing a normal relationship with other partners. "The nullification of marriage should not be allowed on flimsy and frivolous grounds that do not constitute psychological incapacity," Goco contended. "Marriage is an institution in the maintenance of which in its purity the public is deeply interested, for it is the foundation of the family and of the society, without which there could be neither civilization nor progress (Ramirez vs Gomez, 42 Phil 855)."

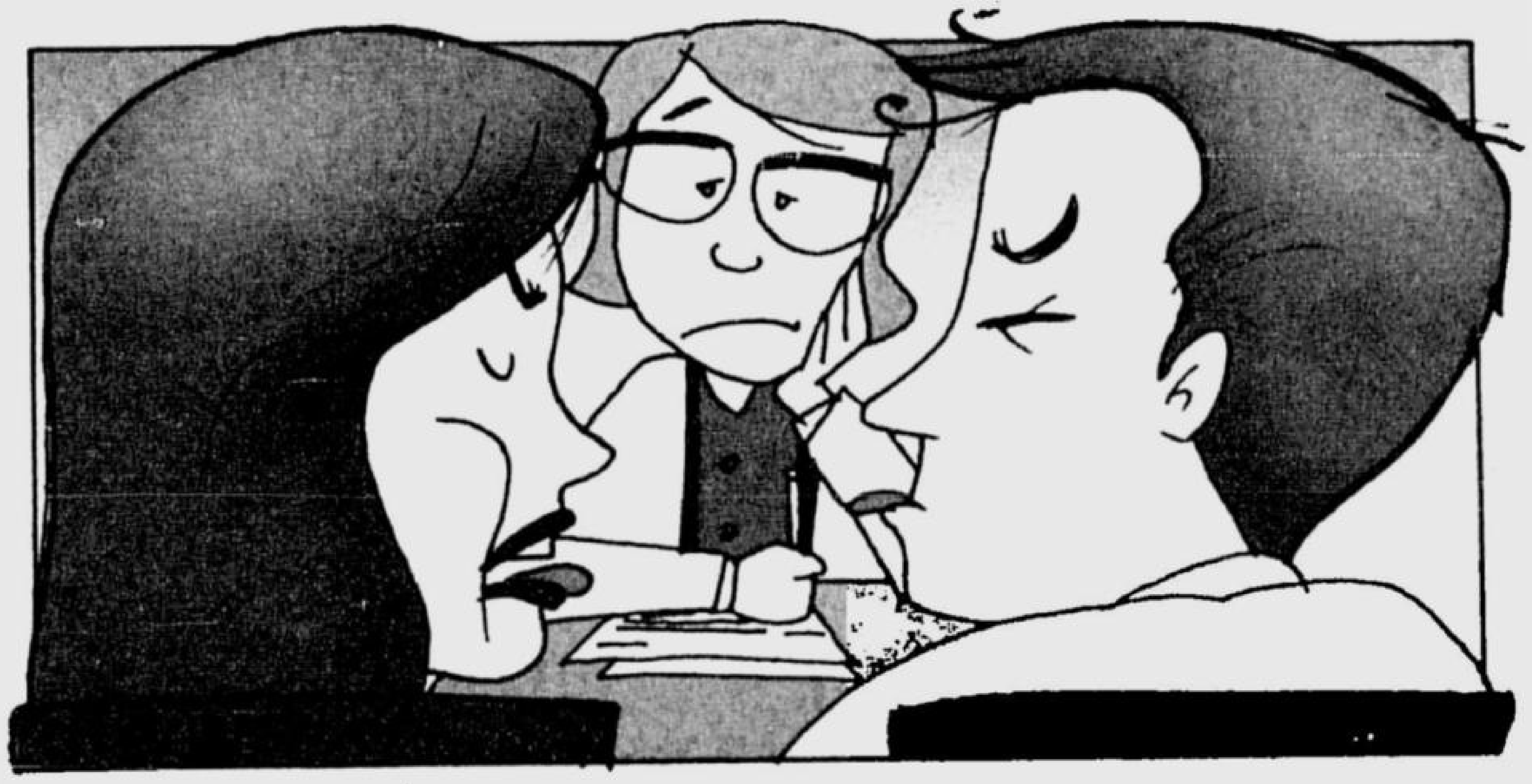
Illustrations by Steph Bravo

However, the Court of Appeals denied the SolGen's submission and instead upheld the trial court's decision to declare the Plaraso marriage void. The CA claimed that the Family Code Revision Committee had intended to liberalize the application of our civil laws on personal and family rights. The CA added that it views psychological incapacity "as a broad range of mental and behavioral conduct on the part of one spouse indicative of how he or she regards the marital union, his or her personal relationship with the other spouse, as well as his or her conduct in the long haul for the attainment of the principal objectives of marriage. If said conduct, observed and considered as a whole, tends to cause the union to self-destruct because it defeats the very objective of marriage, then there is enough reason to leave the spouses to their individual fates."

But Solicitor General Goco was not satisfied with the CA's ruling. Assisted by two OSG solicitors, he filed before the Supreme Court a petition for review on *certiorari* under Rule 45 of the Rules of Court. In his petition for review, Goco said that the CA made an erroneous interpretation of the phrase "psychological incapacity" and incorrectly applied it to the facts of the Plaraso case. Goco pointed out that if the decisions of the CA and trial court were to be followed, the most liberal annulment procedure in the world, anathema to Philippine culture, would be established in our country. He argued that "opposing and conflicting personalities" is not equivalent to psychological incapacity and stressed that psychological incapacity does not simply mean neglect by the marriage partners of their marital responsibilities and duties, but a defect in their psychological nature that renders them incapable of performing such marital responsibilities and duties.

The Supreme Court agreed with Solicitor General Goco and reversed the CA's decision, thereby ruling that the marriage of Estelita Sebit to Oscar Plaraso remains valid. Furthermore, for the guidance of the bench and the Bar, the SC issued eight guidelines for the interpretation and application of Article 36 of the Family Code on psychological incapacity as a ground for the annulment of a marriage. The most noteworthy of the SC's guidelines were the second, fifth and eighth. The second guideline states: "The root cause of the psychological incapacity must be (a) medically or clinically identified, (b) alleged in the complaint, (c) sufficiently proven by experts, and (d) clearly explained in the decision. Article 36 of the Family Code requires that the incapacity must be psychological – not physical, although its manifestations and/or symptoms may be physical. The evidence must convince the court that the parties, or one of them, were mentally or physically ill to such an extent that the person could not have known the obligations he was assuming or knowing them, could not have given the valid assumption thereof. Although





no example of such incapacity need be given here so as not to limit the application of the provision under the principle of *ejusdem generis*, nevertheless such root cause must be identified as a psychological illness and its incapacitating nature fully explained. Expert evidence may be given by qualified psychiatrists and clinical pathologists."

The fifth guideline elaborates further: "Such illness must be grave enough to bring about the disability of the party to assume the essential obligations of marriage. Thus, 'mild characteriological peculiarities, mood changes, occasional emotional outbursts' cannot be accepted as root causes. The illness must be shown as downright incapacity or inability, not a refusal, neglect or difficulty, much less ill will. In other words, there is a natal or supervening element in the personality structure that effectively incapacitates the person from really accepting and thereby complying with the obligations essential to marriage."

The eighth guideline expanded the role of the prosecuting attorney or fiscal and of the SolGen by requiring these officials to appear not only as counsel for the State, but also by requiring the SolGen to submit to the court a certification stating the reasons for his agreement or disagreement with the petition for annulment. The SC ruled that no decision shall be handed down unless the SolGen's certification is submitted within 15 days from the date the case is deemed submitted for the court's resolution. "The Solicitor General shall discharge the equivalent function of the *defensor vinculi* contemplated under Canon 1095," the SC stated in the guideline. (It was from Canon 1095 of the National Appellate Matrimonial Tribunal of the Catholic Church in the Philippines' New Code of Canon Law that the Family Code Revision Committee took Article 36).

Thus, because of Solicitor General Goco's persistence in appealing to the Supreme Court the Plaraso case, a timely and appropriate issue was raised and resolved. More importantly, Goco's appeal afforded the occasion for the SC to give guidelines and thereby establish a clear road map for the courts and prosecuting attorneys to follow on the issue of psychological incapacity in annulment cases. In the process, Goco helped to strengthen the State's role in protecting from dissolution, at the whim of the parties involved, the permanence, inviolability and solidarity of marriage and the family as the foundation of the nation.

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Poetry

Paghahanap ng Aksidente

Iniisip ko ngayong nakalatay na naman ang gabi,
Biyernes, at ang usad ng mga sasakyan sa Ortigas
Ay parang mga nagpuprusisyong bangag,
Kung may hahantungang saysay ang paglalakad
Upang maghanap ng pampatawid-lungkot.
Ang kalawakan na binalutan na ng lamig ng bakal
Ay marubdob na naglalahad ng kapalaran
Ng mga taong sa laylayan ng awa kumakapit.
Mahaba ang paghinga at paggalaw,
Maikli at kakarampot ang pag-ani ng tuwa.
Matatapos ang gabing ito
Na may pinagdaanang bagong kamalayan.
Samutsari ang aksidente ng buhay
Bagamat iisa ang takbo, paulit-ulit,
Tulad ng kalungkutan.

Teddy G. Espela

THE CHILD DAY CARE
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New!

Now at home, in your spare time you can train for a rewarding career caring for children.

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MEMBER. PANA Truth in Advertising

End Page

by Jonathan Best

Poodle *Adobo*

Cyanide and dynamite fishing, illegal logging and trafficking in endangered species are issues of urgent importance to the Philippines. Dog eating is not

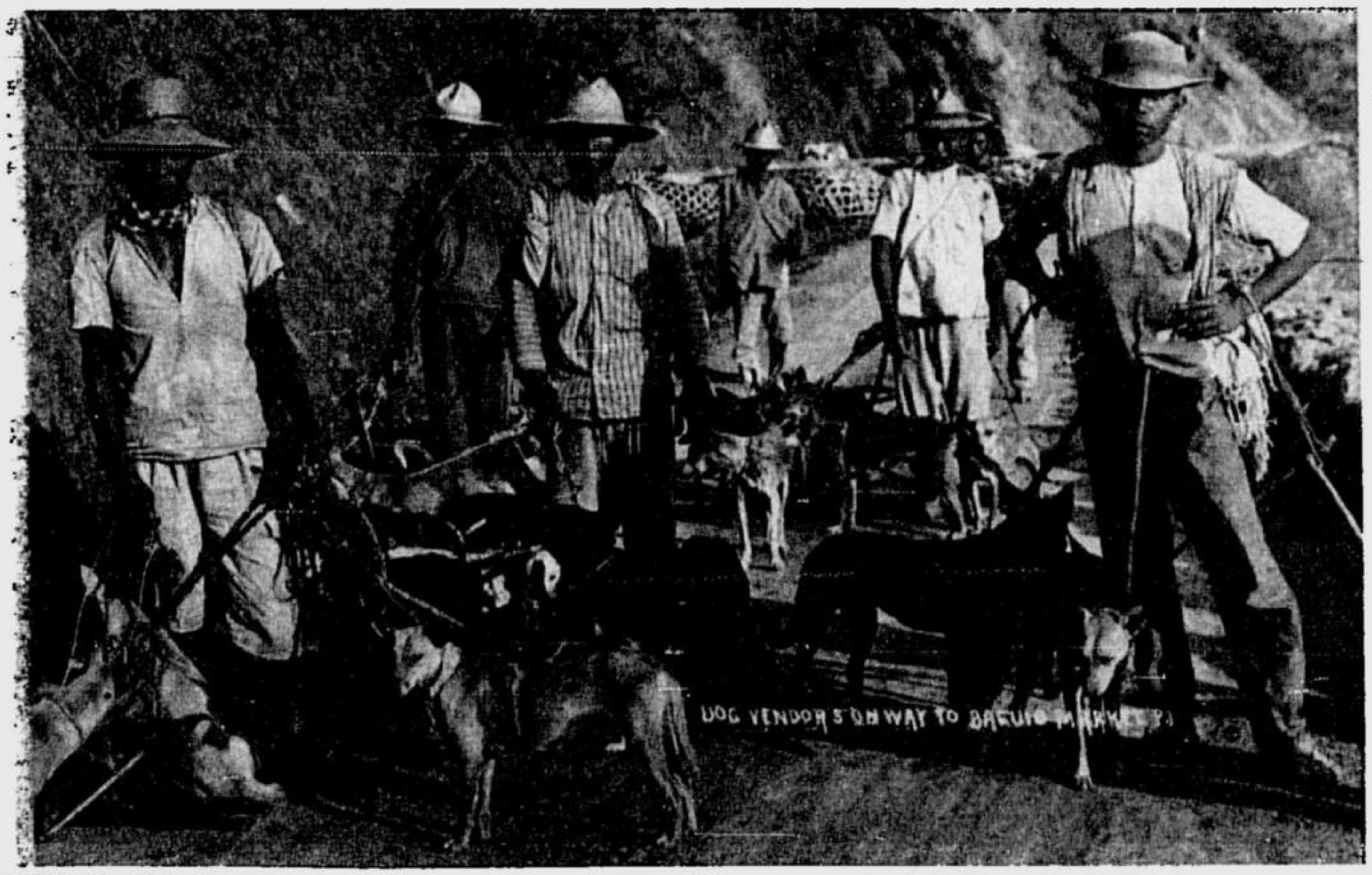
ONE IS TEMPTED TO LAUGH AT THE LATEST ROUND OF ANIMAL RIGHTS ADVERTISEMENTS BEING PLACED IN MANILA NEWSPAPERS BY THE INTERNATIONAL WILDLIFE COALITION EXHORTING FILIPINOS NOT TO EAT DOGS. THEY PICTURE A VERY DISTRESSED YOUNG MAN DRESSED IN A JACKET AND TIE, LOCKED BEHIND BARS. LOOKING IN ON HIM ARE HIS WIFE AND DAUGHTER ASKING, "DID DAD ROB A BANK ?" THE ANSWER IS NO, HE MALTREATED AND KILLED DOGS FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION! THE FELLOW LOOKS MORE BRITISH THAN FILIPINO AND THE WHOLE LEGALISTIC TONE OF THE AD IS VERY ANGLO-SAXON. IT WOULD BE CAMPY AND HUMOROUS IF THIS KIND OF ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN WASN'T SO MISGUIDED AND INSULTING TO FILIPINOS.

British and American pet owners are outraged by the fact that people in the Philippines and other Asian countries occasionally eat dog meat. In Thailand they have even discovered a market in dog pelts. Western pet owners are horrified at the mere thought that a beloved pet, "man's best friend," their little Fifi or Spot, could end up on some sinister Asian's dinner table. Or they might even be transformed into a cute little ethnic fusion handbag or a pair of exotic shoes.

> *Western pet owners are horrified at the mere thought that a beloved pet, "man's best friend," their little Fifi or Spot, could end up on some sinister Asian's dinner table*

This is not a new issue. Foreign tourists coming to Baguio in the early part of the last century were shocked by the dog market. Numerous postcards were made showing the poor dogs being hauled to market or tied up waiting to be purchased and butchered for meat. Even grizzlier pictures found their way into tourist scrapbooks, showing dogs having their throats cut and their fur singed off over an open fire. These cards were sold along with pictures of Filipino "headhunters" and doctored photos of Igorots with tails. They satisfied the morbid curiosity and insensitive demands of foreigners and lowland Filipino tourists looking for images of sensational, exotic and "uncivilized" customs.

Dogs on their way to the Baguio market, 90 years ago


DOG VENDORS ON WAY TO BAGUIO MARKET

In 1904, shortly after the American colonial regime was established in the Philippines, 1,200 Filipinos were shipped to the United States for the great Saint Louis Exposition. Among the ethnic groups selected were Igorots from the Mountain Province. In one of the most egregious examples of elitist hypocrisy, the Americans and *mestizo* Filipino members of the St. Louis board of directors bitterly lamented the great attention given by the press to the Filipino custom of dog-eating. It seems the Igorots were regularly supplied with dogs to perform crowd-pleasing demonstrations of their unusual canine cuisine.

The whole notion that the directors of the St. Louis Exposition could not have banned this practice with a simple directive is of course utterly ridiculous in retrospect. The dog-eating shows were cheap sensationalism permitted by the directors. The shows were, in fact, a great cash cow for the "Filipino Village" at the St Louis Exposition.

Westerners have sensationalized the issue of dog-eating for years. In reality very few people in the Philippines have ever or would ever eat dog meat. It is a food source only for the destitute or occasionally for the poorest working class men looking for something to eat with their beer. Almost every provincial barrio seems to have a large contented dog population, many of whom sleep on the sidewalks and run free apparently unmolested. In fact, compared to the West where urban dogs are licensed and kept inside or on leashes most of the time, Filipino dogs seem well treated and free-wheeling. Many people use dogs as watchdogs so they are less likely to be treated as cuddly household pets or weird little personal companions as in Europe and America. Some dogs in the Philippines suffer abuse, malnutrition and endemic diseases, as do many poorer members of the human population.

If the International Wildlife Coalition was truly interested in environmental and animal rights issues in the Philippines they would run advertisements relevant to specific problems here. The horrendous effects of cyanide and dynamite fishing, illegal logging and trafficking in endangered species are issues of urgent importance to the Philippines. Dog eating is not. These lurid and sensational messages are more likely part of a cynical campaign to raise funds from horrified and misinformed Western pet owners. Once again Filipinos are casually characterized as uncivilized by foreigners with their own selfish agenda.

Maybe it is time for the Philippines to start running advertisements in the London Times or the British Economist asking how many British Royals, dressed up in ridiculous costumes and mounted on horseback, are needed to kill one poor fox in a fashionable society fox hunt. Of course the Royals don't kill for "human consumption" like barbaric Filipinos, God forbid; the British and their American cousins only kill these cute little creatures for the fun of it. One might also ask where all those beautiful fur coats appearing on Fifth Avenue, Kensington and the Paris Opera this time of year come from. I'm sure the darling little baby seals, minks, sables, silver foxes, lynx, beavers and Persian lambs don't willingly donate their pelts to the noble cause of beautifying "civilized" Western matrons.

Comments welcome at endpage2000@hotmail.com

ARTWATCH...from page 7

it's a friendly and relaxed kind of place. It can get quite rowdy because of the bar, but I guess that's kind of expected," Ringo laughs. Beer, by the way, is hands-down the café's most popular drink.

Last January 14, BSM opened a group photo exhibit that more or less shows how this small art community has started to, well, bond. "It was supposed to be a solo show of the artist/photographer Bahaghari. All the photos are about the people who hang out at Big Sky Mind," says Ringo. But then the project extended to other photographers as well. "We filled the space with photographs, and those who wanted to get the pictures on the walls would have to replenish them. *Parang dagdag-bawas.*"

The stamina, patience, and perseverance of the people behind Big Sky Mind are nothing short of admirable. For one, putting a show together is no joke. The work is a daunting task, from writing proposals to following up sponsorships, setting up the space/ stage and promoting each exhibit. Second, there's still the lack of art patrons, so to speak, who would support the art community. Nevertheless, many artists have learned to accept and live with this fact. As Katya says, it's not enough that one is talented to be a successful artist. "The practice of art has evolved. You just don't submit your work and hang it there *tapos, tapos na*. Now you have to give talks, have a forum, and make a statement. *Yun, medyo kulang pa dito* because it's still hard to get people to talk about their works." And there's still that Bohemian thing. "A lot of people still have that romantic notion of art," says Ringo. "You have to be realistic. There's a lot of work involved and you need a very strong sense of discipline to get your thing together."

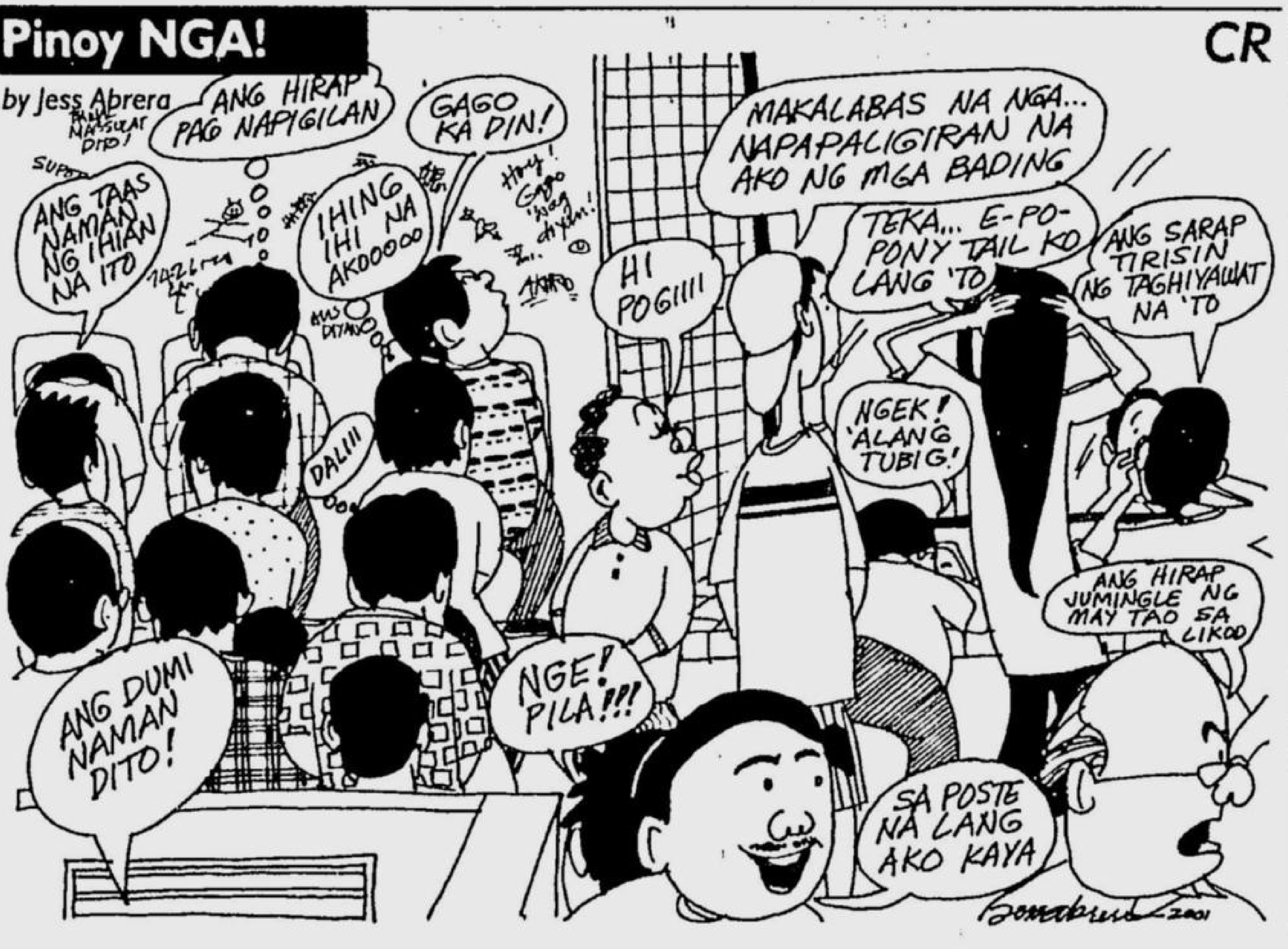
> *"A lot of people still have that romantic notion of art." says Ringo. "You have to be realistic. There's a lot of work involved and you need a very strong sense of discipline to get your thing together"*

Big Sky Mind is, at present, setting up a non-profit organization, basically a pool of artists who spearhead the gallery's projects. "There's still a lot that we want to happen," Ringo concludes. But there's no denying the fact that Big Sky Mind has had a lot of good moments, too – with or without a sign.

For Big Sky Mind's schedule of activities, log on to: bigskymind.ph. BSM is located at 66B Doña Juana Rodriguez St., New Manila, with tel. no. 414-7451.

Pinoy NGA!

by Jess Abrera


CR
ANG HIRAP PAG NAPIGILAN
GAGO KA DIN!
MAKALABAS NA NGA... NAPAPALIGIRAN NA AKO NG MGA BADING
ANG TAAS NAMAN NG IHIAN NA ITO
IHING IHI NA AKOOOOO
Hoy! Gago 'wag diyan!
HI POGIIII
TEKA... E-PO-PONY TAIL KO LANG 'TO
ANG SARAP TIRISIN NG TAGHIYAWAT NA 'TO
DALIII
NGEK! 'ALANG TUBIG!
ANG HIRAP JUMINGLE NG MAY TAO SA LIKOD
ANG DUMI NAMAN DITO!
NGE! PILA!!!
SA POSTE NA LANG AKO KAYA
Bonabrera 2001

Dead Time for Dolores

Fruits fall. Leaves drift away like bats. Nothing
seems to happen, nothing appears to complete
our story, but this random yet intense
experience of time and space, bright objects,
Vivid things, clear sounds, footfalls, leavings...

Now is the time to weep, Dolores.
Now is the time to catch the moment
of self-definition, capture the flash
of vibrant objects, or halt the motion
of fallen things. Your fragrance, your shadow,

Your footfalls, Dolores, remain
like a cold sharp glint on a goblet's rim.

Constantino Tejero

Huwag Sabihin

Huwag sabihin na mas maganda
kami ngayon
Kesa sa mga aswang ng Salem
O mga birhen ng Betlehem.
Panahon ang me gawa sa amin,
O maari ring sabihing

Lalaki ang lumilok sa amin.
Sila na mula noon hanggang ngayon.
Ay me hawak ng patalim
Tigaukit ng mga nararapat ng damdamin
Tiga-iskalpel ng mga bukol sa dibdib
Nagtatakbuhang tumor ng ligalig.

Sila na nagmamay-ari ng mga baril
ng walang kapanalunang mga giyera at rebolusyon.
Sila na tinaguriang mahuhusay sa istratehiya,
tagahawan ng kasaysayan, taga-isip,
Tigadakila, tigakilala ng Mali sa Tama
Ng Babae sa Bakla.

Sila ang may-ari sa amin.
Binili kami. Pinalaya ayon sa maabot ng kanilang
Humahangang tingin, ayon sa kaya nilang
asawahin sa pinakamatapang sa amin.
Maghuhugas kami ng plato, magdadrayb ng kotse
magsusuot ng bikini, magrarali,

Hahwak ng armalayt, mag-anak ng lalaki
Lahat nang ito at marami pang iba
Ay walang-salang gagampanan, tutupdin, tulad ng
Sanlibo't isang mga batas na nalagpasan na namin.
Ang totoong Kami ay mananatiling tago, kubli, dakipin.
Ganoon nabubuo ang mapanganib sa amin.

S.B. Alojamineto

The Sunday Inquirer Magazine is accepting contributions for our regular poetry section. Interested contributors should send a printed a copy of the poem (which may be in English or Filipino) together with a self-addressed stamped envelope to Ruel S. De Vera, poetry editor, Sunday Inquirer Magazine, Chino Roces (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Mascardo and Yague Streets, Makati City 1263, or e-mail to <sim@inquirer.com.ph>

Art

Group Photo: a collaborative exhibition featuring an assemblage of images of events, happenings, and the people who go to Big Sky Mind. Till Feb. 11. Big Sky Mind is located at 66B Dona Juana Rodriguez St., New Manila, QC. For details, call 414-7451, fax 725-5681 and email big_skymind@hotmail.com.

Desaparecidos, solo exhibit by painting, installation and peroformance artist Ronaldo Ruiz at the British Council Information Centre, Taipan Place, Emerald Ave., Ortigas, Pasig. Till. Feb. 16. For details, call 914-1011 to 14.

Pacita Abad: Unfurled, till Feb. 9 at the Lopez Memorial Museum (G/F Benpres Bldg., Exchange Rd., Pasig). For details, call 449-2355.

Marian Pastor-Roces speaks on **Philippine Artifacts in Foreign Collections** as part of the Lopez Memorial Museum's Luncheon series Feb. 8.

Malang's Siyudad@Buhay. The artist's birthday exhibit. Include's Malang's recent oils, gouache, and selected sketches and drawings. Until Feb 5 at the West Gallery (Marisan Center, 48 West Ave., QC). For details, call 411-0336 and 411-922.

Forms and Textures. an exhibition of contemporary studio pottery by Nelfa Querubin at the Lobby of the Vargas Museum, UP Diliman, QC. Till Feb. 28. For details, call 920-5301 local 7407 or 7408.

Dulaang UP's "Divinas Palabras," onstage at the Wilfrido Ma. Guerrero Theater featuring (clockwise from top) George de Jesus, Allan Palileo, Eugene Domingo, Arlo de Guzman, Banaue Miclat and Raye Baquirin

Two Women Potters, pottery by Lilia Lao and Winnie Go, till Feb. 14 at Gallery 139. **Small Pleasures in a Big World,** new acrylics by Ernie Sta. Ana, till Feb. 15, at the Art Space c/o Gallery 139 (Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati City).

Music

Jag Jeans jams with The Corrs at the Big Dome, featuring the Irish pop band at a one-night only concert on Feb. 16 at the Araneta Coliseum, presented by Nokia. Tickets available at all SM TicketNet outlets.

Ethnic Thursday Nights with Kontra-GaPi in UP. A series of weekly activities with the UP College of Arts and Letters' resident ethnic music and dance ensemble led by Edru Abraham every Thursday at 5:30 p.m at Quezon Hall, UP Diliman, QC. All performances, workshops, demonstrations, lectures and intercation with Filipino and foreign world music exponents are free.

Mula sa Cainta, featuring Los Trobadores Rondalla and Cainta Cultural Dance. Today, 5 p.m. at the Rizal Park open-air auditorium, Manila. Free admission.

Paco Park Presents **Classical Romance,** featuring flutist Sonny Yangco, pianist Ena Aldecoa, Feb. 4; **From the Heart,** featuring the Philippine Mall Chorale singing popular love songs, Feb. 9, at the Paco Park, San Marcelino, Manila. Free admission. For details, call 526-8163.

Soundtrip Thursdays at Gani's Bar (960 Aurora Blvd., Cubao, QC) with ambient sounds provided by smokersoundsystems and an international DJ from New York. For details, call 911-9380.

For this week's bands and schedules call:

- '70s Bistro: 46 Anonas St., QC (922-0492)
- Hobbit House: 1801 Mabini St., Malate, Manila (521-7604)
- Strumm's: El Pueblo, Ortigas (637-3009)

Onstage

For its concluding gift in its 25th season, Dulaang UP stages **Divinas Palabras** by Ramon del Valle-Inclan from Feb. 7 to 26. Directed by Prof. Jose Estrella and featuring Crispin Pineda, Eugene Domingo, Ricci Chan, Andoy Ranay, Raye Baquirin, Joel Saracho and Banaue Miclat at the Wilfrido Ma. Guerrero Theater, Palma Hall, UP Diliman, QC. For details, call 924-8589. 920-5301 local 7450.

For its first offering in its 2001 theater season, Repertory Philippines presents **Celebration III,** a musical revue directed by Baby Barredo and featuring Miguel Faustmann, Micahel Williams, Rem Zamora, Rem Zamora, Liesl Batucan and others. Till Feb. 18 at the William J. Shaw Theater in Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Mandaluyong City and the Carlos P. Romulo Theater at the RCBC Plaza, Ayala Ave. cor. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City. For details, 633-4821 to 25 or email rep@broline.com.

Dramatis Personae and Instituto Cervantes, the Embassy of Spain and the Agencia Española de Cooperacion Internacional presents Pedro Calderon dela Barca's **Life is a Dream** *(La Vida es Sueño).* Feb. 17, 18, 24, 25, Mar. 3,4, 10 and 11, at 10 a.m., 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. at the Pius XII Theatre, Pius XII Catholic Center, UN Ave., Paco, Manila. For details, call 526-1482 to 85.

Atbpa

Aklat Ko, Mahal Ko Poster Contest. The Philippine Board on Books for Young People is now accepting proposals for its 2001 poster based on the slogan, "Aklat Ko, Mahal Ko." The PBBY also announces the **2001 PBBY Illustrators' Prize.** All entries should be based on the PBBY Salanga prize-winning story "Bakit Matagal ang Sundo Ko?" by Fancis V. Canon. Deadline for both contests is Feb. 15. For details, please call372-3542 or 49 and fax 372-4204.

Artfarm Asia Animation & Digital Exchange (Basement, Liberty Center, Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City) offers **workshops in animation for the web** using Macromedia Flash 5. For details, call 535-0285 or email info@artfarmasia.com.

Mandy Navasero Summer Black and White Photo Workshop, April7-May 26. Registration ongoing. For details, call 522-1901 or 522-1905.

Mega Magazine will hold the **6th Annual Ladies Cup** golf tournament on Feb. 22 at the Tagaytay Midlands. Registration is ongoing. For details, call 631-2859 local 16 and 18.

Garden Extravaganza, Health, Sports and Home Updates Fair. Orchids, bonsai trees, ornamental plants, garden implements and tools at low prices will be showcased till Feb 9 at the Greenhills Shopping Center. Also to be showcased are appliances, handicrafts, electronics and kitchenware.

Narrative Non-Fiction Writing Workshop at the Ayala Museum, Feb. 17 to Mar. 10. For details, call 812-1191 to 97, local 130.

Creative writing workshop for amateurs. Feb. 10 and 11, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Earthlite, 4/F, COD Dept. Store Bldg., Cubao, QC. For details, call 417-1521 or 0919-7405199.

Infant Massage: A Touch of Love. A hands-on workshop by pediatricians for parents and other child caregivers to be held February 10. **Babies 101: A workshop for expectant mommies** on Mar.3. Both workshops held at 1206 Medical Plaza, Ortigas, San Miguel Ave., Pasig. For details, call 637-3029.

Producing Effective Annual Reports Cost-Effectively: One-day seminar on Feb. 23 by Executive Editors. **Newsletter publishing,** on Mar. 15-16. **Writing for Business Results,** on Mar. 22-23. For details, call 887-3797 or 98, fax 887-3796 and email execedit@mozcom.com.

Araullo High School Class 1951 Reunion. Golden Jubilee celebration at grand reunion of the Araullo High School Alumni Association, Inc. at 12 noon on Feb. 17 at the school library. For details, call Lourdes Boncales Garcia at 825-9353, Yoli Canseco Hernandez at 939-2115, and Ely Gabriel Rodriguez at 825-3983.

Managing a Catering Business Seminar-Workshop on Feb. 5-13 at the Triple V Express, 2/L Bridgeway, SM Megamall Mandaluyong City from 1-5 p.m. For details, call 823-4947, 0919-5500601 and email pactserv@info.com.ph.]

Grand clearance sale. A 10-day centerwide grand discount and markdown sale at Araneta Center. Up to 50% off on selected items. Till today. For details, call 911-1426 or 911-3101 local 7291.

Food

The Legend Hotel-Manila's Tanglaw Coffee Shop (60 Pioneer cor. Madison Sts., Mandaluyong City) will be offering a Valentine Set Dinner dubbed **Love Me Tender,** Feb. 12-16, featuring a Salad of Tanigue Fillet, Capucvcino of Corn and Pepper, pan-grilled Tenderloin of Beef, Parmesan Mashed Potatoes and Symphony, a dessert of puff pastry with caramele ala mode. For details, call 633-1501.

Santis Deli and Café Bar now open at G/F Astroia Plaza Condominium, Amber Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig.

T.G.I. Friday's (Glorietta, Ortigas, Malate, Quezon and Alabang City branches) introduces **ultimate margaritas.** It is a heady concoction of Jose Cuervo Gold, Triple Sec, Brandy VSOP and Cointreau served in an oversized 18-ounced goblet. Served with Apprageous, Three-for-all, Ballpark nachos and Buffalo wings.

Timbuktu Cafe at 618 J. Nakpil street Malate will now be open from 2 p.m. till 2 a.m. They serve delicious gourmet and dessert waffles, coffee classics, specialty iced teas and ice blended coffees. New waffle flavors include apple cinnamon and tiramisu. New coffee concoctions like Black Forest and Iced Mocha Madness now available. For details, call 303-7103.

Gani's Restaurant features hot and sizzling meals at reasonable prices. Located at 960 Aurora Blvd., Cubao, QC. For details, call 911-9380

X-manila

25th Jose Joya Awards and Exhibit at the SM Art Center, 2/f SM City Cebu. Opens on Feb. 9 and runs until Feb. 24. Open to the public. For details, call 231-9851.

2nd Cebu International Business Opportunity Expo at the Cebu Trade Hall, 3/f SM City Cebu. Opens Feb. 16 and runs till Feb. 8, from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily. Open to the public. For details, call 231-9851.

Linangan ng Kasaysayang Bayan, Iskuwela sa Tag-init 2001 presents an intensive 5-day course on Philippine history entitled Kasaysayan ng *Bayan sa Larangang Pambansa at Lokal,* April 16-22 at the NFA Staff House and Training Center, Loakan Rd., baguio City. For details. Write Prof. Ferdinand C. Llanes at PO Box 256, UP Diliman, QC or call 926-1088, or Dr. Rowena R. Boquiren at (074) 442-2427.

The Philippine International Furniture Show 2001 . Begins Feb. 24-27 at the World Trade Center, Manila and ends at the Cebu International Convention Center, Cebu from Feb. 27 to Mar. 2. For details, call 631-2834/632-9007 (Manila), (32) 253-3091/253-0274 (Cebu) or email pifs@cfipnet.com.

Recruitment ongoing for **volunteers for Gabayan,** a 10-day summer camp for "special" children, April 20-29 in Alaminos, Pangasinan. Volunteers are required to attend 10 consecutive Sunday training sessions beginning Feb. 11 at 15, Sulu St., Nayon Kanluran, West Ave., QC. For details, call 728-8214 or 0917-4333017.

Sanggol, an exhibit of black-and-white photographs of babies, till Feb. 11, La Salle University, Bacolod City. For details, call 523-7955 or 521-1517.

The SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules and tickets. You can reach us by e-mail at sim@inquirer.com.ph or by fax at 897-4811.